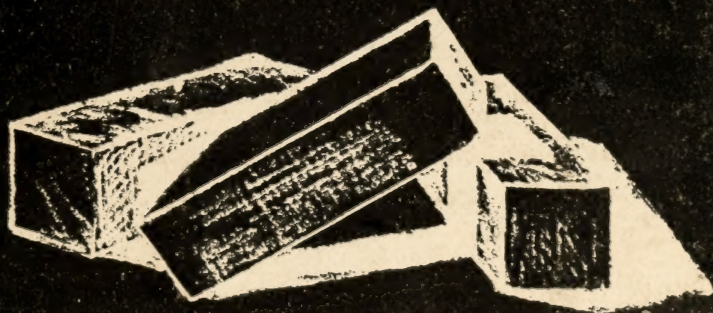
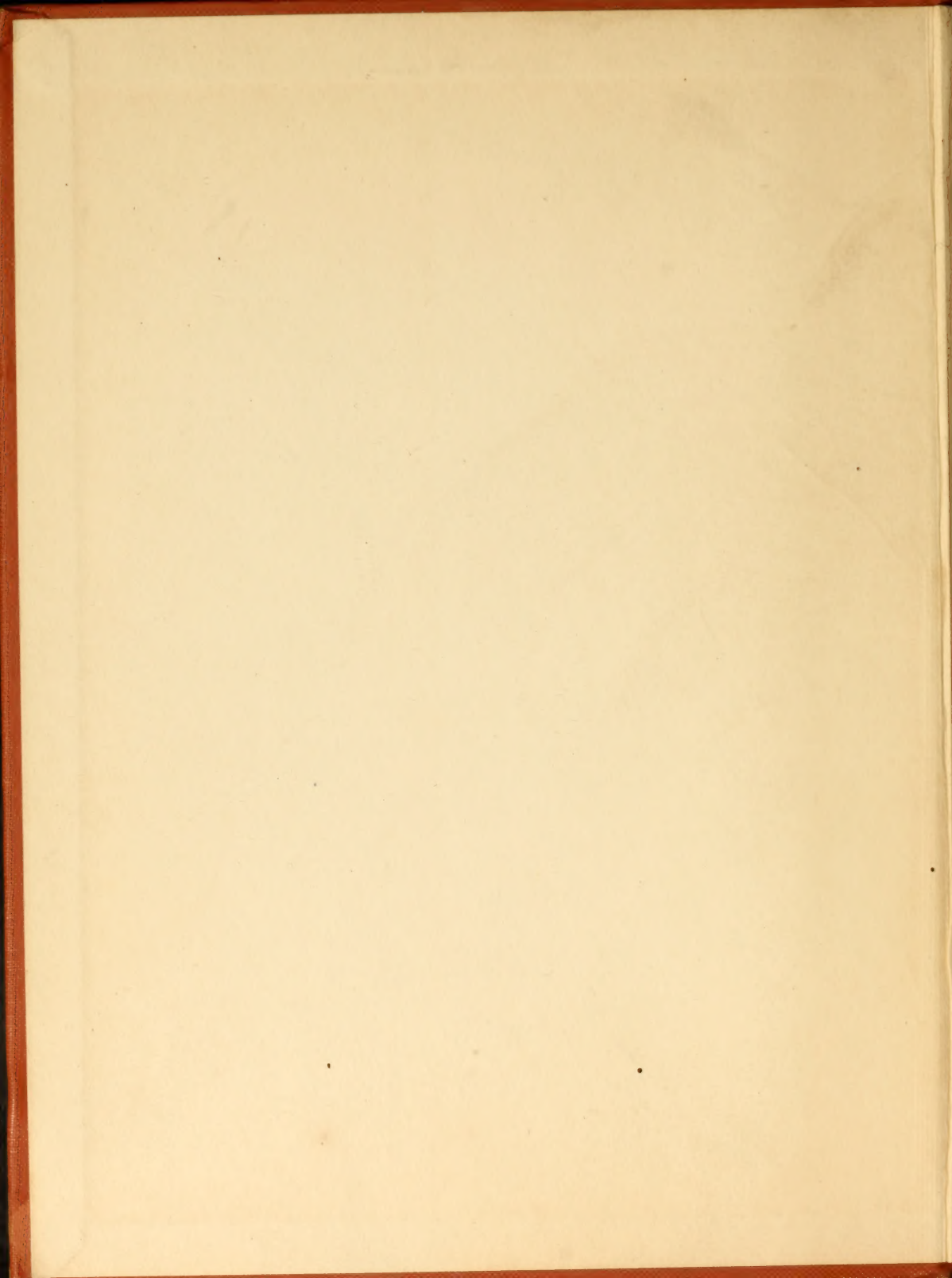


CHALK TALKS

L.O. Brown.





AMERICAN SUNDAY - SCHOOL UNION

CLYDE V. MURPHY, MISSIONARY

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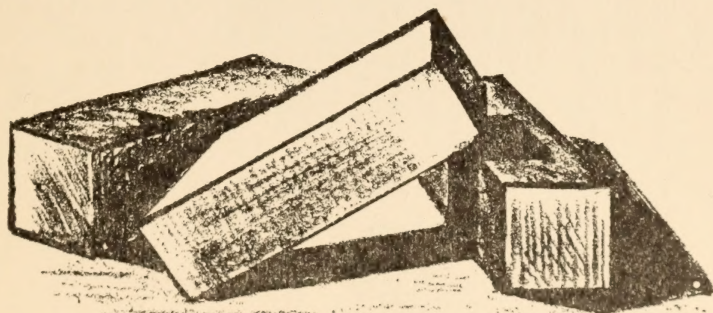


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L.O. Brown.



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Chalk Talks

INTRODUCTION

My good friend L. O. Brown, in sending forth "Chalk Talks," has done an outstanding work for the busy minister and teacher who are looking for real illustrative art material.

He has placed in his unique, easy flowing style an excellent series of suggestive objective lessons. Each drawing is a perfect gem, bright, plain, easy to follow, bringing to the onlooker and listener a precious truth. "Through the eye-gate and ear-gate into the soul's gate" is very forcibly presented in this book. The lessons which he brings forth with these drawings are highly spiritual and when used by others will certainly bring the best of results.

The author is also to be commended for the excellent illustrative material which he has used in clinching the truths he would have one get with the "Talks." His vast store of fine illustrations has served him well.

To know Mr. Brown personally and then to read this book is to see that he has put his very self into it. He has given his best, that others might profit by his work. I wish to highly commend this book to all ministers, teachers, and church workers everywhere. It is destined to have a wide circulation. To use it will be to appreciate its untold value.

St John Halstead

FOREWORD

This book comes as an answer to the growing need of illustrated talks along spiritual lines.

Its aim is to enable any person to present gospel truths in an impressive and fascinating manner.

One is not required to be an artist in order to use this material effectually. The amateur has been kept in mind constantly.

The lessons will be found to be brief and suggestive; stimulating thought and self-expression.

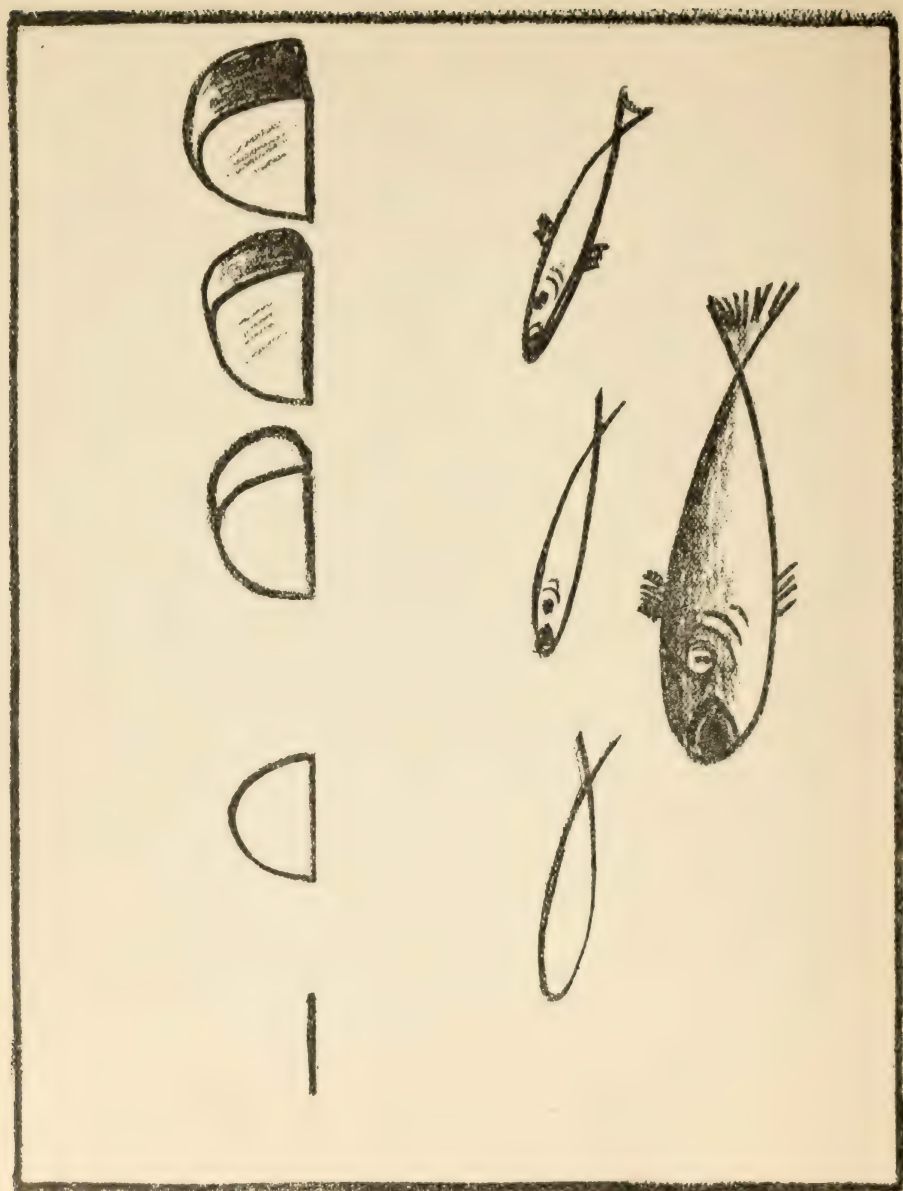
Our Master never preached a sermon when He did not liken His truth to some everyday ordinary object so that even the children in His company could take in the power and sweetness of the truth He taught.

Those who desire to illustrate religious truths with the crayon will find great pleasure in the chalk talk work.

L. O. Brown

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DIVINE ARITHMETIC

Scripture: JOHN 6 : 9. *There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?*

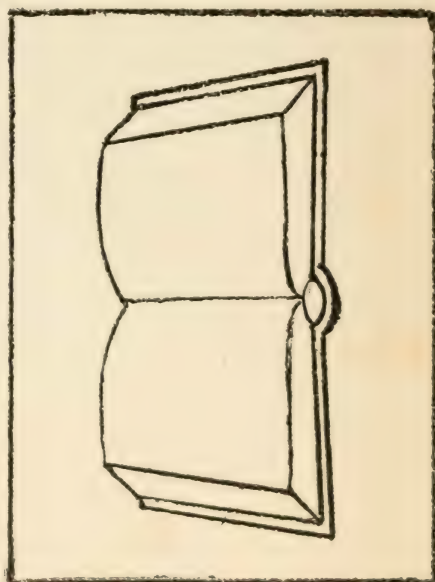
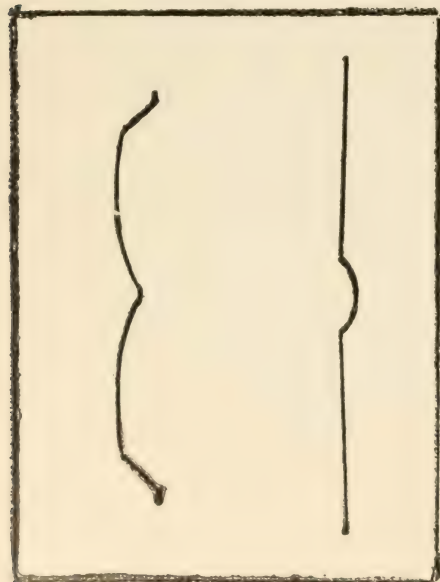
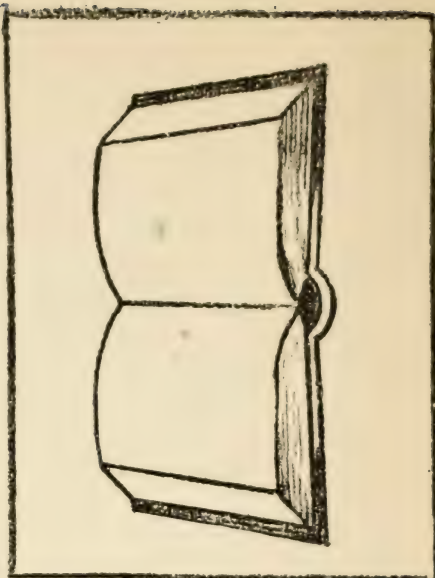
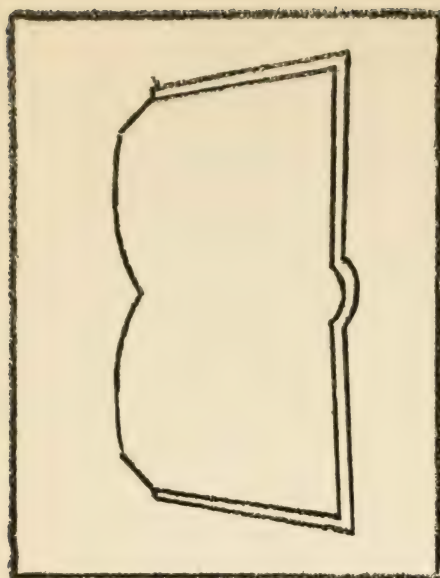
The boy with the loaves and fishes was willing to give up his supper. *Subtracting* it from himself, he *added* it to the resources of Jesus. Jesus *divided* the gift that it might be distributed; and, in the division, it was *multiplied* until the great throng was fed. The working out of this example shows that there is a divine arithmetic. Some of its rules it might be well to learn.

Add to such spiritual resources as you have all the increase possible. The Christian is to grow in knowledge, to increase in faith, to add power to power. Do not try to add that which will reduce the total of your possessions. To add greed will reduce generosity; to add envy will take away your power to feel gratitude. If you prefer ease to effort, you will find your chance to work given to another.

Subtract from your life all that which would keep you from God. Take away self, and you will have more power for service. Give up your own will, and you will make effective the greatest will of all, the will of God.

Divide your joys and double them. Divide the sorrows of others, and your own will decrease. Give freely of all that God has given you, and discover how God bestows new blessings, filling up your life faster than you can empty it.

Multiply your gifts by prayer, your faith by your works, your influence by example, your service by your sympathy, and your love by your devotion.



THE BOOK OF BOOKS

Scripture: TIMOTHY 2 : 15. *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

A young woman took up her Bible from the stand and, calling her sister, said, "Come now, and I will help you with your Sunday-school lesson; then you may go back to your play."

Her little sister came to her and, seeing her Bible, said, "Let us use grandpa's Bible, sister; grandpa wont' care."

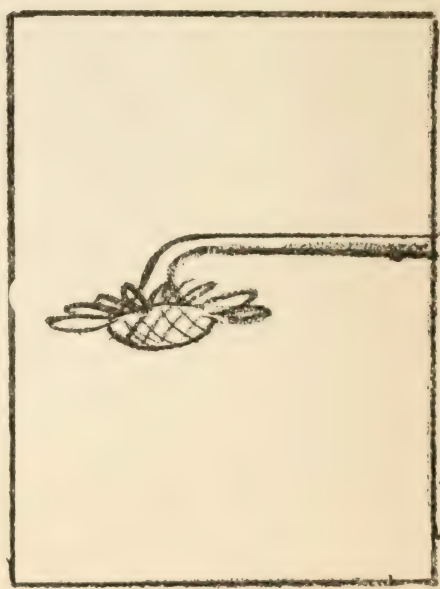
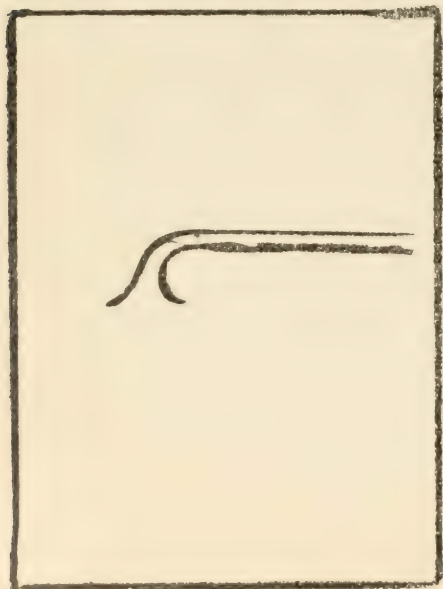
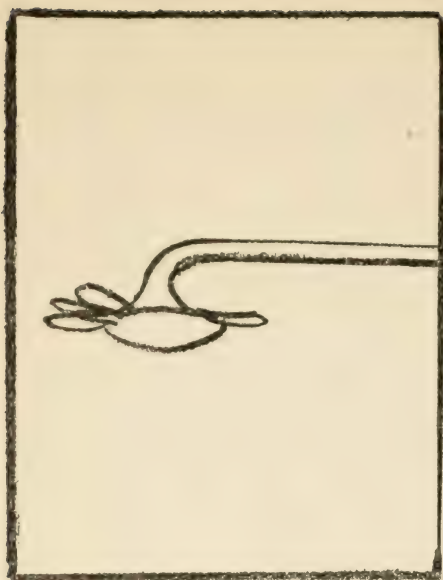
"Why? This is just the same as grandpa's; there is no difference."

The little girl replied, "Oh, yes, there is. Grandpa's Bible must be more interesting than yours, for he reads it so much more than you read yours."

Do we read our Bible enough to make it interesting?

The Bible has been called the *Book of Books*, and truly it is. There is no other book so able to offer comfort, help, counsel, peace, joy, and truth. It differs from other books in that it is not one book but many—a whole library. It contains sixty-six books. Thirty-nine are in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament. There are 3,566,480 letters, 773,746 words, 31,173 verses, and 1,189 chapters in the King James version. The middle verse is Psalms 118:8. The longest verse is Esther 8:9, and the shortest verse is John 11:35. Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the English alphabet except the letter "J."

The Bible is at once a book of history, prophecy, poetry, drama, and music; and altogether the truest parable of life.



THE SEED AND THE SUNFLOWER

Scripture: MARK 4 : 26-27. *So is the kingdom of God as if a man should cast seed into the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up.*

Seeds of grain which have been hidden away in ancient tombs for three thousand years have been known to germinate when brought out to the light and sunshine and watered with the summer rains. Long centuries of time cannot kill the life within a seed.

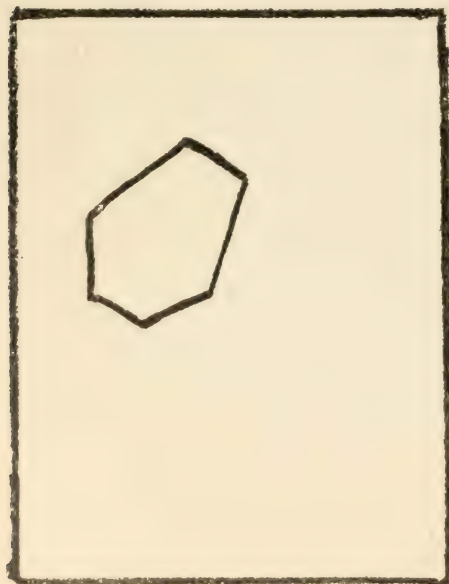
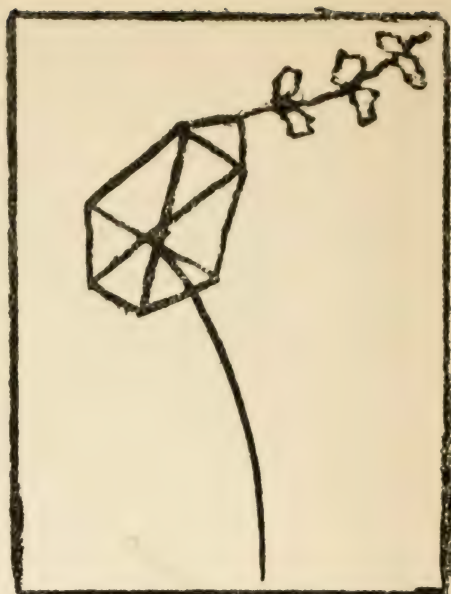
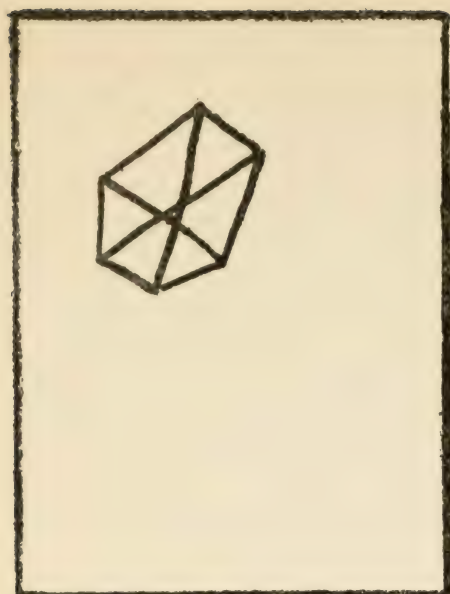
A human soul, though apparently dead, will begin to grow when the water of life and the sunlight of Jesus' love reach the heart.

Just as a seed remains alive, no matter how dead and dry it looks, so, no matter though it be small, it can produce a large plant. Perhaps the largest flower we know, grown from a seed, is the sunflower.

The sunflower's smiling face is always cheerful. One species of the sunflower always faces the sun, from its rising at dawn until its setting.

It takes a sunflower seed six months to reproduce a flower like the parent flower, itself bearing seeds. A large sunflower was measured and found to be ten inches across the face, thirty-one and a half inches around the face, and thirteen inches from tip to tip across the petals. The seeds numbered 2,033, amounting when measured to one and one-half pints. How large this flower was, and how amazing its crop of seeds, compared with the seed from which it sprang!

Good deeds planted will multiply and reproduce in even greater quantities, and in more lasting ways, than the seed of a giant sunflower.



SMALL BEGINNINGS

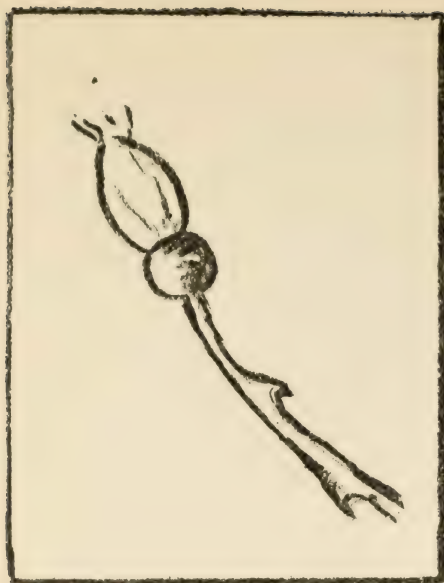
Scripture: 1 CORINTHIANS 1: 27. *God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.*

A few years ago a man by the name of H. F. Walsh, who had an important part in the construction of the first suspension bridge at Niagara Falls, died at Lincoln, Nebraska.

When Walsh was a boy, he lived at Niagara Falls with his parents. At that time the first steps toward the suspension bridge were being taken. The very first thing to be done was to stretch a single wire across the chasm. The engineer in charge had thought of a way to get it across. He asked for the best kite-flyer in town. The old gentleman whom he asked said, "There is not a boy in town who can fly a kite better than the Walsh boy. Why, he can get it up, send it where he wants it, and keep it there; or he can bring it down when and where he wishes."

The engineer asked that the Walsh boy be brought to him. He told the lad that he wanted him to fly his kite across the Niagara River, and have it come down on the other side. Young Walsh flew it across, allowing it to come down as directed. The engineer had attached the wire to the end of the kite string; the men on the other side caught and detached the kite; and by means of the string they drew the wire across, forming the first strand of a cable which started the bridge on its way.

The small cords of little duties done, little services rendered, little triumphs over temptation, if attached to high ideals that can soar over the difficulties of life, will serve as beginnings for strong and splendid structures of character. Despise not the day of small things!



HELPING GOD

Scripture: HEBREWS 13 : 6. *The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

A little girl came running into the house where her mother was busy at work. She was all out of breath; for she had been out in the yard playing, so her mother thought. However, the mother asked, "My child, where have you been?"

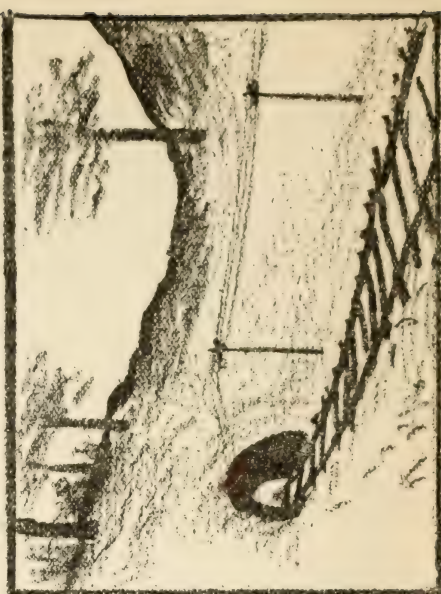
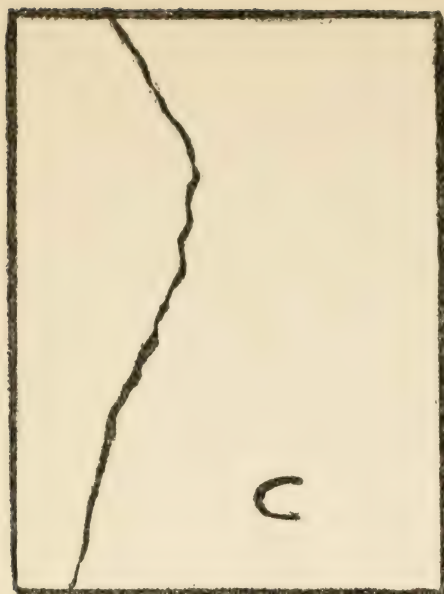
"Oh," the little girl said, "I have been in the yard and in the garden, too. I have been helping God."

"Helping God? How were you helping God, my child?"

"Oh, I found a rose that He had forgotten to open, and had left almost bloomed; and I blossomed it." She did not know that she had spoiled the rose in trying to help God.

People are like the flowers in the garden. Some are early, some are late in blooming; but all have possibilities of beautiful character as life unfolds. However, if one is *forced* to do the right thing, as the flower was forced open, the free, normal way of character development is spoiled.

There are people who try to help God by the same method as the little child—by schemes of their own, hoping to hasten results. The schemes do not hasten the outcome, but often spoil the possibilities for the greater things God has in store. The best way to help God is to let Him help us, in His own time and way.

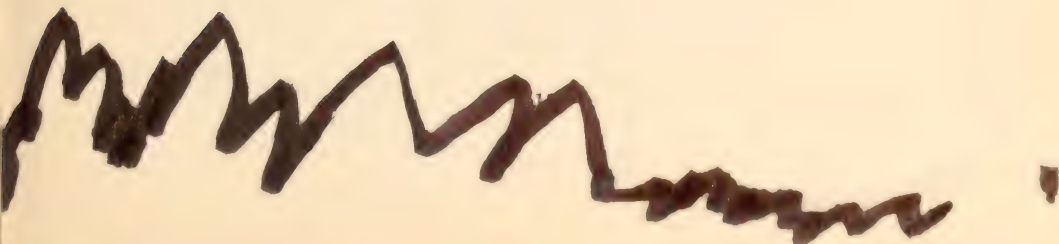


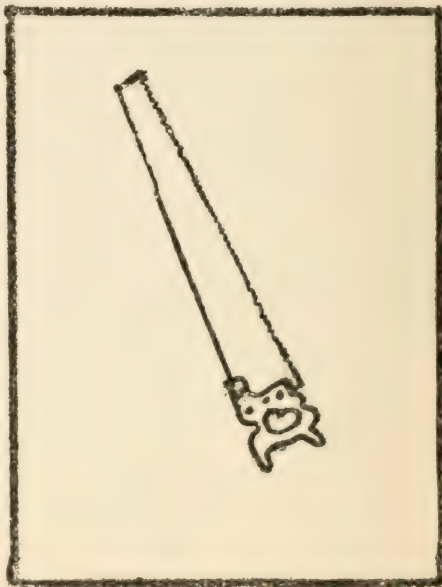
THE TUNNEL

Scripture: ROMANS 8 : 28. *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.*

When the electric underground railway was constructed in London, a group of men were put together at one place and another group at another place, digging in the sticky blue mud with pick and shovel. The engineer sat alone at a big table and planned every move and turn that the men made. The workmen did not know the plan, but only knew that they must do as they were instructed. After many days of hard work, the dirt was removed, and the work was completed. A great tunnel was the result of the men's work and proved to be all that could be desired.

Sometimes things may seem to be crooked and puzzling to us; but as long as we go on steadily with our piece of work and the duties which God has planned for us, and trust in Him, we may have the assurance that He will make all things work together for our good. So with a faith that does not know defeat, let us continue in the work of winning souls to the kingdom of Christ by keeping busy every day though our work may lie in the dark places of life.





INFLUENCE

Scripture: PROVERBS 15 : 1. *A soft answer turneth away wrath:
but grievous words stir up anger.*

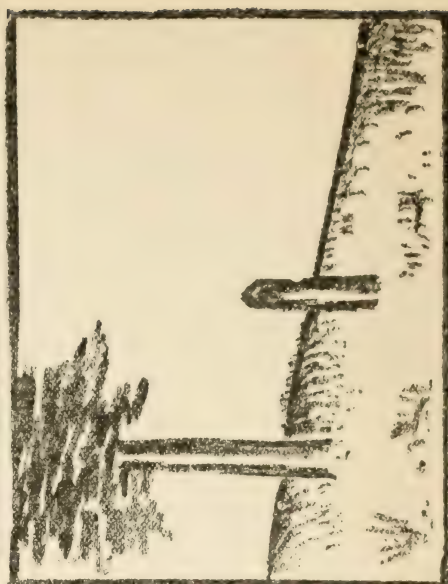
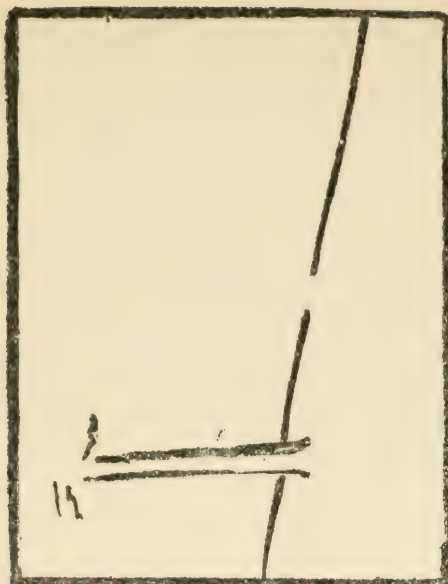
If it were possible for the ax, the saw, and the hammer to talk to each other as the fairy stories suggest they do, I am quite sure that some very interesting conversations would be carried on. We can imagine a scene in which the ax decides to cut through a bar of iron. "I will master it," he says. Then he begins to let fall some of his heaviest blows on the iron; but every blow makes the edge of the ax more blunt until he ceases to strike.

"Leave it to me," says the saw. And with his relentless teeth and his thin, strong back, he works forward and backward, gnawing at its smooth surface until his teeth become worn or broken down. Then the saw falls aside with the ax.

"Ha, ha!" laughs the hammer, "I will show you the way." So saying, he in his turn begins to strike the iron; and at the first hard stroke, off flies his head, and the iron remains as before.

"Shall I try?" asks the soft, small flame. They all despise the flame, and say it has no strength; but the flame curves gently round the iron and embraces it, never letting go until it is melted under its irresistible influence.

There are hearts hard enough to resist the force of wrath, the malice of persecution, and the fury of pride—hard enough to make their adversaries recoil from attempts to overpower them. But there is a power stronger than any of these; and hard indeed is the heart that can resist love.



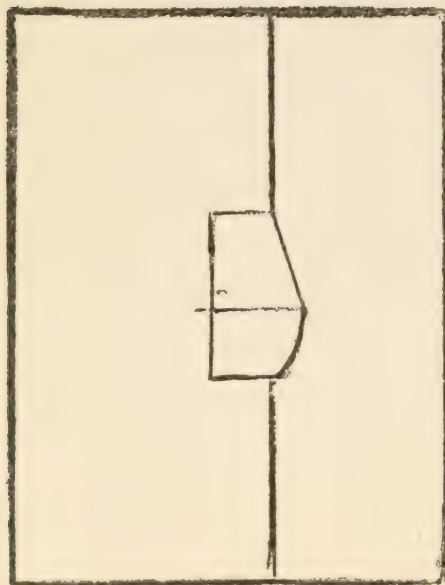
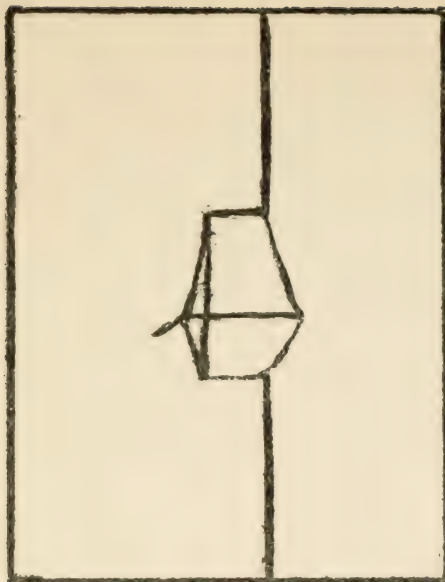
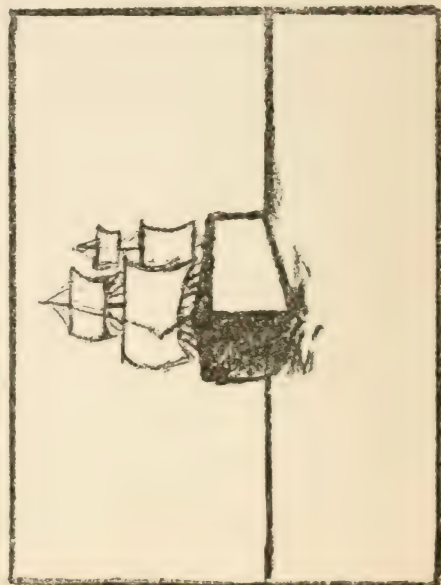
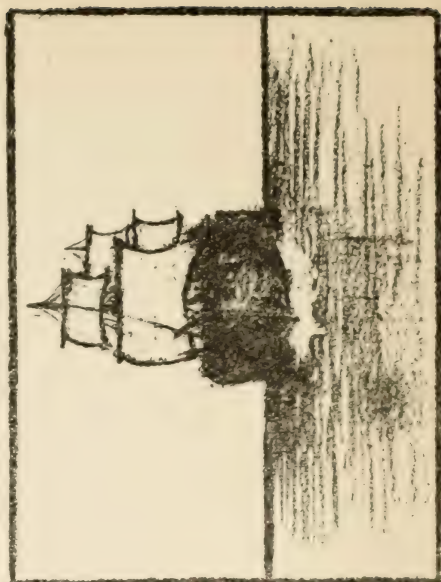
LIVING OR DEAD?

Scripture: 2 PETER 3 : 18. *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

People may be divided into many different classes, but it is our aim here to divide them into just two, "Saved" and "Unsaved." Every audience or congregation may be divided in this way. Let us call the two classes "trees" and "posts," and see the resemblances between these objects and our two kinds of people.

When a tree is planted, it begins to grow, taking on new life and becoming of great service to its owner. The longer it lives, the more useful it becomes. Its spreading branches and its dense foliage give shade to those passing by, and supply a home for the birds. So the saved person, as soon as he is rooted in Christ, begins to grow. He shows the life that is in him by being helpful to those around him.

When the post is planted, it begins to decay. It soon becomes a harbor for bugs, beetles, and other insects; and it loses continuously in power. Whatever useful purpose it serves is not due to anything within itself. It never grows; and the longer it stands in its place the less useful it becomes, until at last it rots away and falls. So the unsaved person draws many evil companions and associates around him. He not only allows character to decay in his own life, but fails to exert any helpful influence on the lives of others.

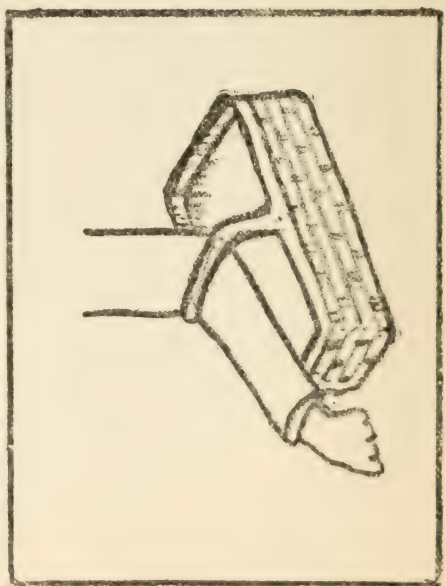
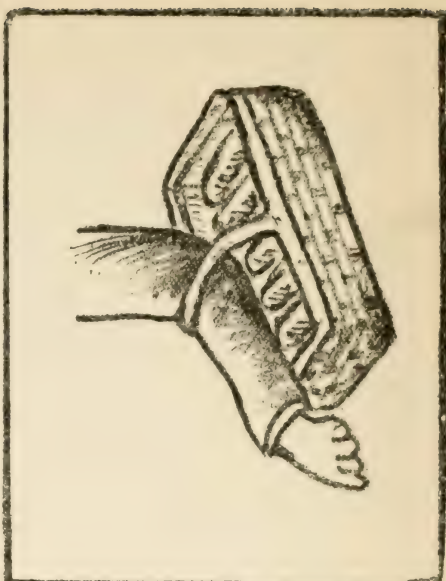
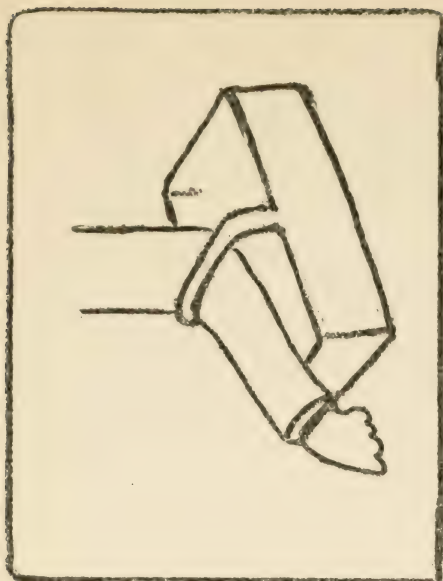


LOOSE ROPE

Scripture: PSALMS 119 : 104. *Through my precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.*

A sailor was asked to go up into the rigging of the ship and reef the sails. He immediately climbed up the rigging, although the ship was tossing and the waves were dashing high. While he was working, his foot slipped, and he realized that he was falling. He seized a rope to save himself; but as he did so the rope began to pay out, for it was not fastened to anything. In a moment of time, he was found on the deck of the ship unconscious.

Sometimes, in life, the temptation presents itself to take hold of things that are not fastened to anything that is worth while. When one puts his trust in anything, he should be sure that the object which he trusts is something good and substantial. Faith in Jesus Christ is the sure dependence, which will not let us fall when we seize it. Faith, strengthened with prayer, is a rope that will hold when the test and strain are put upon it.



UNUSED TALENTS

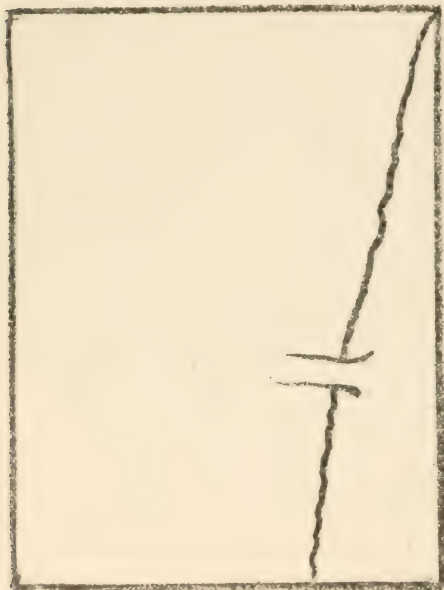
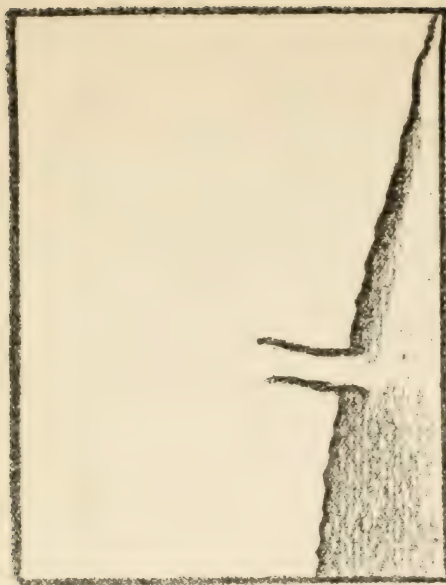
Scripture: PHILIPPIANS 4 : 19. *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

There was a rap at the back door, and the lady of the house hastened to see what was wanted. She opened the door, and before her stood a beggar. "Lady," said the beggar, "would you please give me something to eat?"

As she turned to get something for him, the paper over the basket he was carrying blew off, showing a basketful of provisions. The lady changed her mind. "I have nothing for you this time," she said.

When coming to the Lord, beseeching Him for special gifts, let us not forget that He sees how many unused loaves we already have. Let us begin now to use the loaves we have in our basket, and then ask largely, that our joy may be full.

If we use the gifts or talents we have, they will grow. If one is a singer, he will sing better; if a speaker, he will speak better, by using his talents. If one is an artist, the more pictures he paints the better will be his work. If we do not use our gifts, they will slip away from us.



THE LESSONS OF THE TREE

Scripture: PSALMS 1 : 3. *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.*

This refers to a good man, one who loves God, loves his Bible, and loves to do right. There are many kinds of trees and many kinds of people. The tree teaches many valuable lessons.

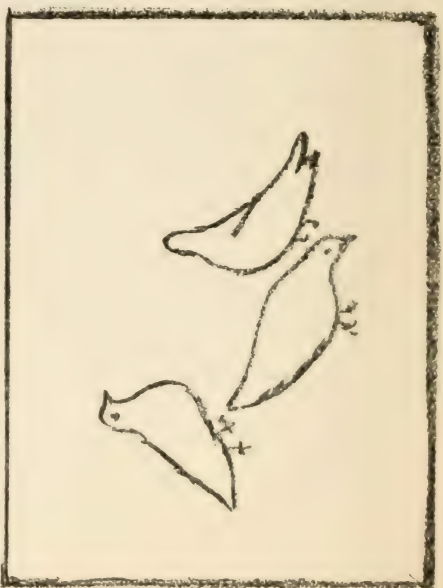
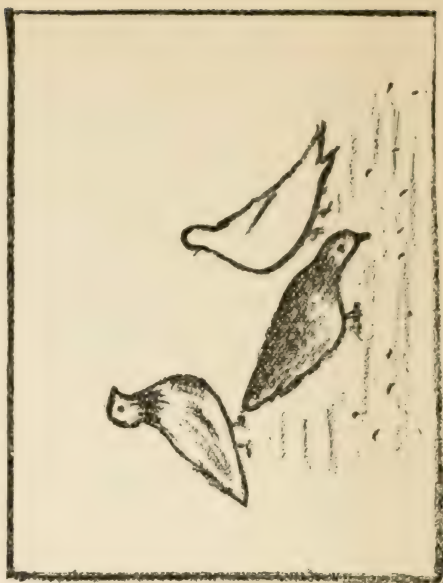
First, grow straight and beautiful. Some trees, long-lived and sturdy, are gnarled and knotty, and their branches are twisted into ugly shapes. They were never pruned to make them shapely. Prune away from your life the sin that will make it crooked and full of knots and gnarls.

Second, be sound to the heart. Some trees are rotten—rotten-hearted; they look beautiful, yet they are dying. They are hypocrites; they cannot be of use as lumber. Be true; be what you want people to think you are.

Third, be strong. Some trees are easily blown down in storms. Do not let any wind of temptation blow you over. For “God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able.”

Fourth, keep growing. Last year every live tree grew a little, adding one more ring to its trunk, and a few more twigs to its branches. Do not let trouble keep you from growing in faith. Do not let hard work keep you from growing in love.

Fifth, give help to others. All trees are a help some way; they supply shade, timber, nuts, or fruit. Every Christian can be of help. Find your work and do it well. God cares for all.



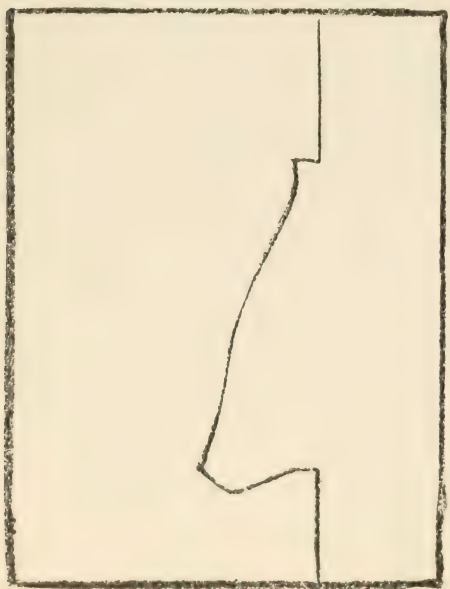
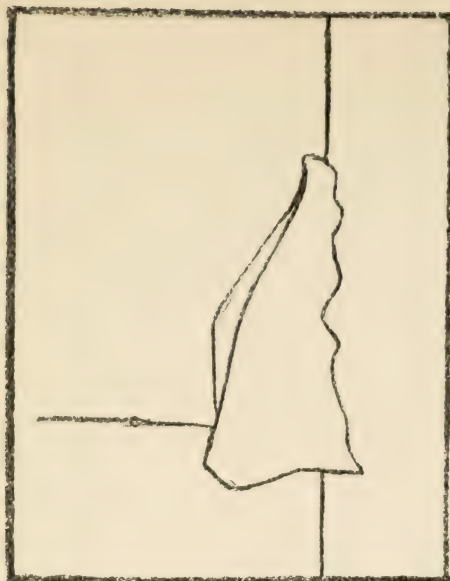
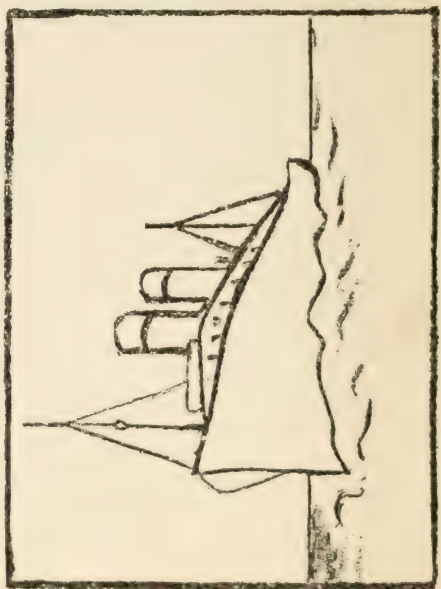
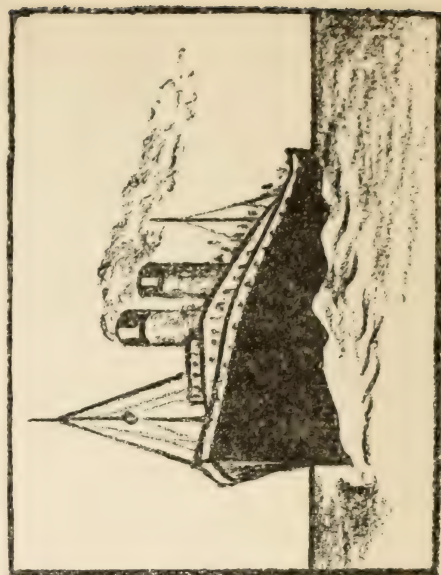
CARRIER PIGEONS

Scripture: GENESIS 8 : 11. *And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off.*

When Mr. Nansen, the explorer, made a trip to the north pole, he took some of Mrs. Nansen's carrier pigeons along with him. One day, after he had been gone a long time, during which Mrs. Nansen had not heard from him, a bird tapped at the window of Mrs. Nansen's home. Instantly the window was thrown open; and, in another moment, the wife of the famous arctic explorer was covering the little messenger with kisses.

The carrier pigeon had been away from the little cottage home for thirty long months (two and one half years); but it had not forgotten the way home. This pigeon brought a note from Mr. Nansen saying that all was going well with him and his expedition in the polar regions. Mr. Nansen had fastened his message to the foot of this carrier pigeon and had turned the bird loose. The frail carrier had darted out into the blizzard. It flew like an arrow over a thousand miles of frozen water. It then sped forward over another thousand miles of ocean and plain and forest, and one morning entered the window of the Nansen home, delivering the message the wife had been anxiously expecting so long.

There is a Messenger who comes to us through the long night of sin's darkness. He brings to us a message of love and cheer as He enters the window of hope. This Messenger is the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to send Him when He went away.



THE GUIDING HAND

Scripture: PETER 5 : 6-7. *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

A large vessel with a full head of steam pulled out from the harbor. The captain's son, a bright little fellow about five or six years of age, was on board and wanted to take the place of the man at the helm. The good-natured old pilot, to humor the little fellow, put the spoke of the wheel in his little hand, which was so small that he could scarcely grasp the handle. At the same time, the pilot was careful to put his own big hand over the child's tiny fingers and take a firm grip on the wheel. The little boy was in high glee, thinking that he himself was steering the huge steamer.

So God deals with his children. He puts His almighty hand over your hand when you are ruling your spirit, and makes His strength perfect in your weakness. The Bible has much to say about the "hand" of God upon us. Read Ezra and Nehemiah carefully, and note this fact.



TRUE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

Scripture: PSALMS 19 : 10. *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

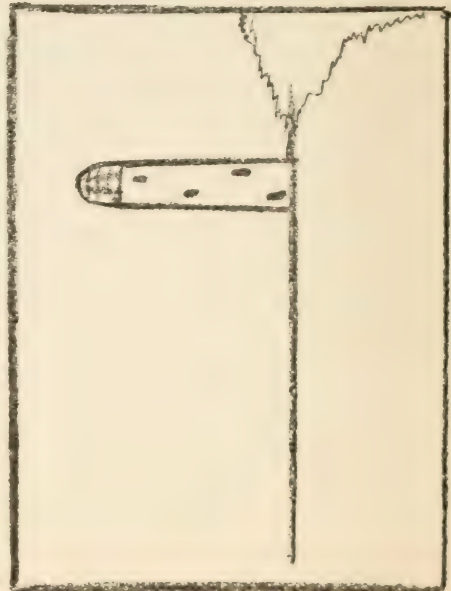
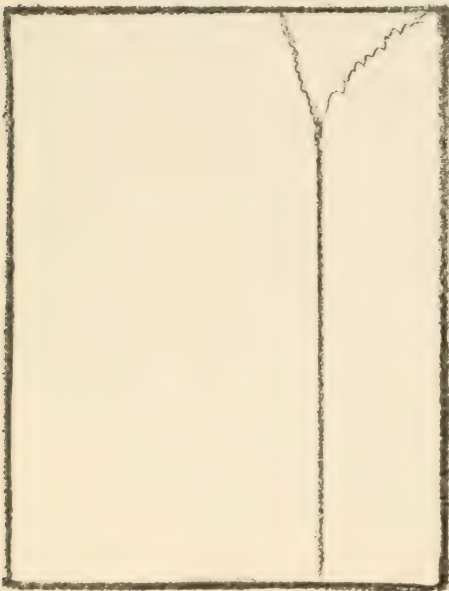
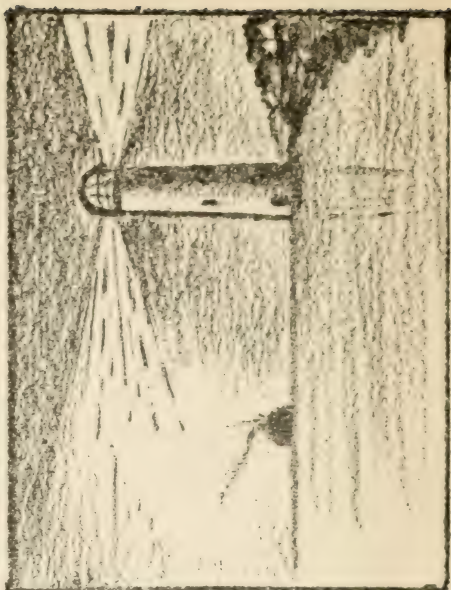
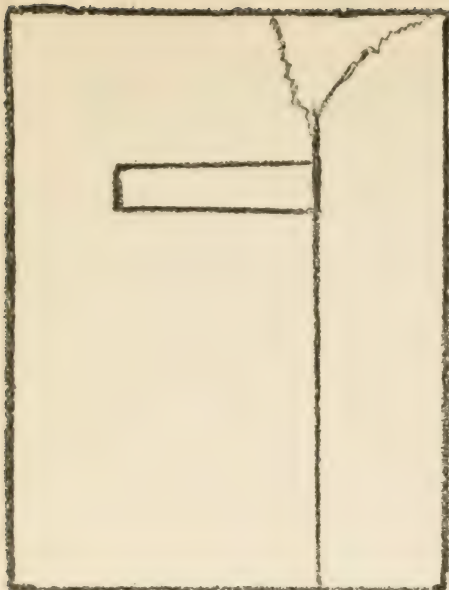
A poor farmer owned his farm, but it was a piece of hard, rocky land. Work as hard as he could, he did not seem able to make more than just a bare living for himself and his family.

After a short illness, the farmer died, and the farm was left to his son. The son looked it over to see what could be done with it; and by examining carefully, he found traces of gold on the place, as well as other mineral wealth of immense value.

The father had had for years the same property to which the son had fallen heir; and though the father lived and died poor, the son became independently rich. The difference between the two men depended entirely upon the fact that the son knew what he had, while the father was ignorant of his possessions.

It is not what we have, but what we are aware of possessing, that determines our spiritual as well as our material wealth. There are those who never put God to the test, who never prove His promises, who are just idly existing in the spiritual realm, though possessing a deed and a title to the riches of glory. God would "supply all their need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus"; and yet the bank has never been drawn upon by these same folk.

Expect much of God, and He will richly endow you with His marvelous grace. Then use His gracious bestowal for spiritual ends.



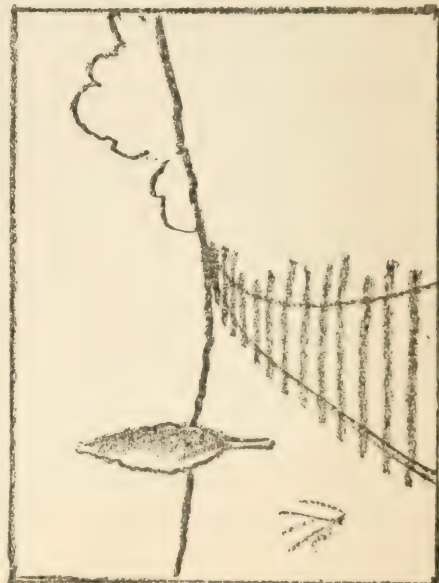
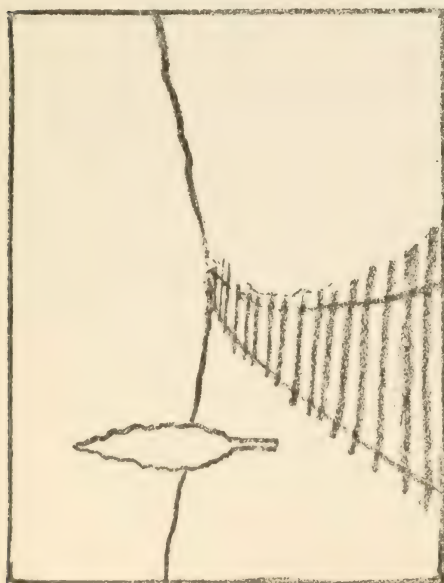
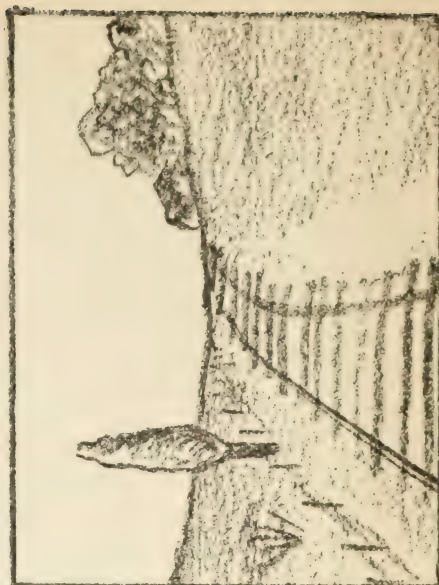
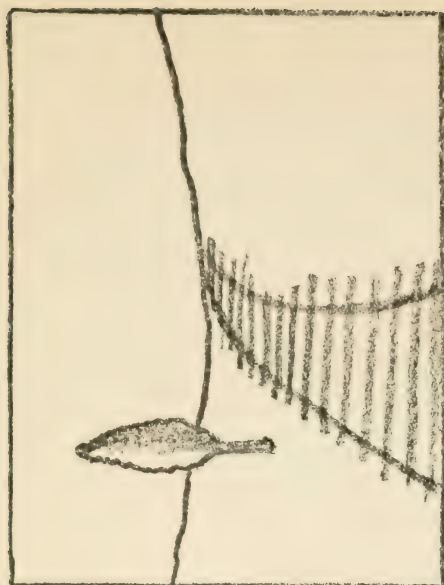
THE LIGHTHOUSE

Scripture: MATTHEW 5:14. *Ye are the light of the world.*

The lighthouse keeper will never know how many eyes are turned to the lamp which he keeps clean, trimmed, and burning through the long, long night watches. No tongue can tell how many ships pass in the night, or how many have been saved from a watery grave by the guiding light in the lighthouse.

The business of the lighthouse is to give out the warning light which tells the mariner which way to go. For the ocean is not always smooth; great storms arise, and then it is the lighthouse that protects the ship from the rock-bound coast.

The light of the world is Jesus. We keep the lighthouses which send forth His light to those tossed on the billows of sin. We must keep our lamps trimmed and burning clearly. We should keep them always shining for Jesus; for we never know when someone out upon the billows of sin may be looking at us, and should we fail at the time of need, someone might be lost.



THE TRAIN

Scripture: NAHUM 1:7. *The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

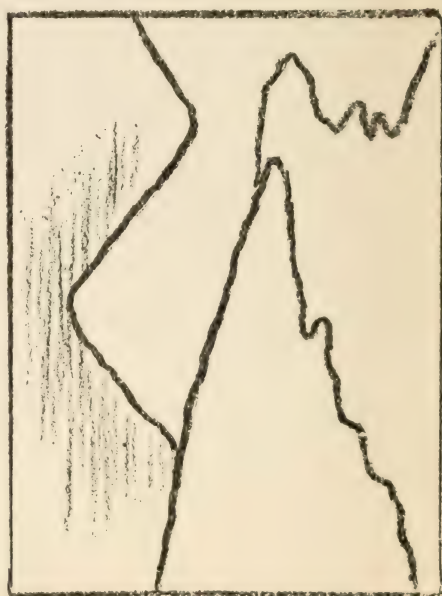
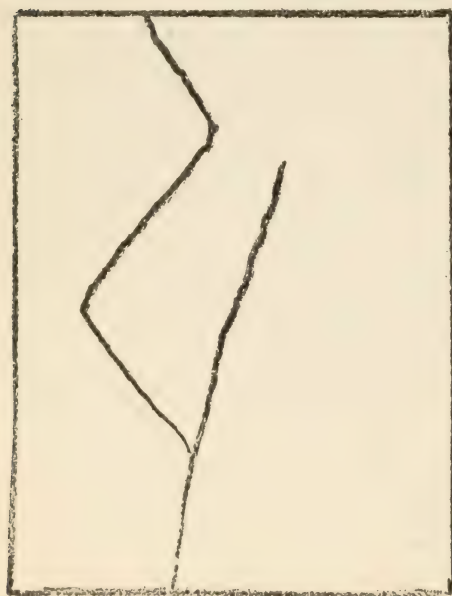
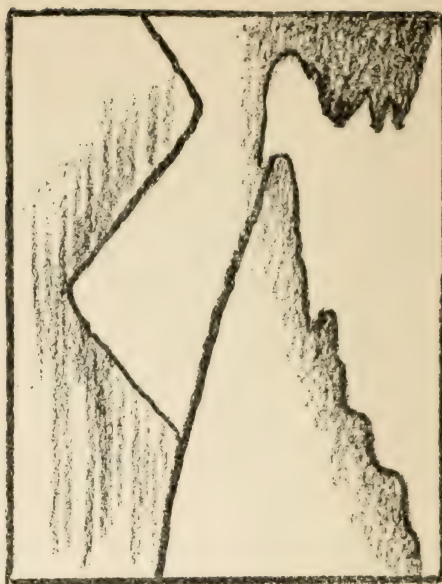
Locomotive engineers do not like the shadows which are cast across the rails ahead of them by the trees and other objects along the way. Sometimes these look like men; now and then they take the form of horses and cattle; and well the engineer knows that if these shadows are what they appear to be, danger lies close ahead. But soon he sees that they are only shapes cast by the moonlight playing him tricks.

A good share of the trouble which Christians have in this world comes from shadows. Life's way does not always run on smooth plains. It goes winding along the sides of hills, and dipping deep into valleys. Often it seems to plunge straight into the heart of some mountain of trouble, while grim objects appear on every hand to frighten us. Then, suddenly, the thing we feared melts away; and we know that we have seen only shadows.

Does it seem to us that we are walking alone? Close by our side is the Shepherd who never forgets His own. Are we fearful that we are not living up to our best, and that we shall incur the Father's frown? Our fears are only shadows. Trusting Him, we may come nearer the ideal He has set before us.

Do we fancy that our prayers are never to be answered? Shadows—only shadows!

Some time we shall know that the faintest cry which we sent up was heard and not forgotten. God never fails to answer true prayer!



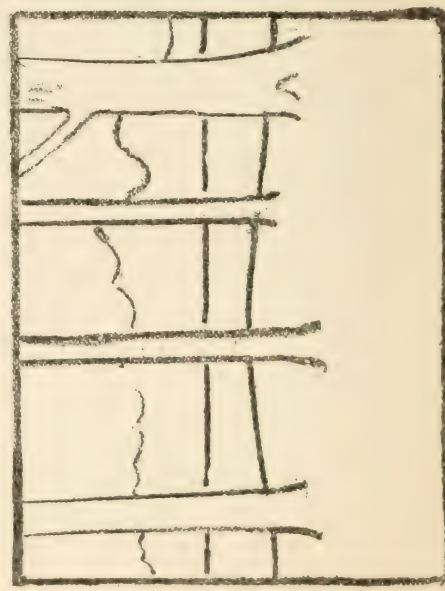
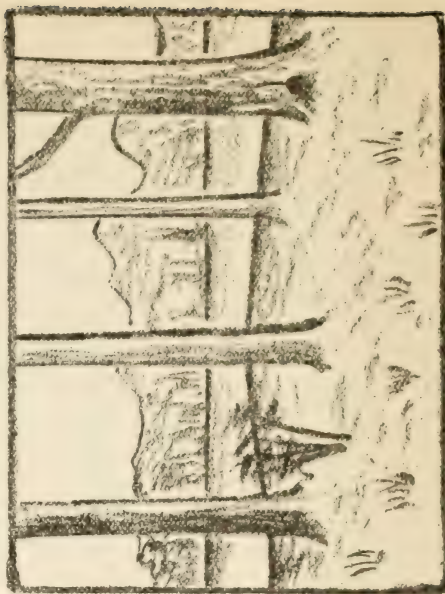
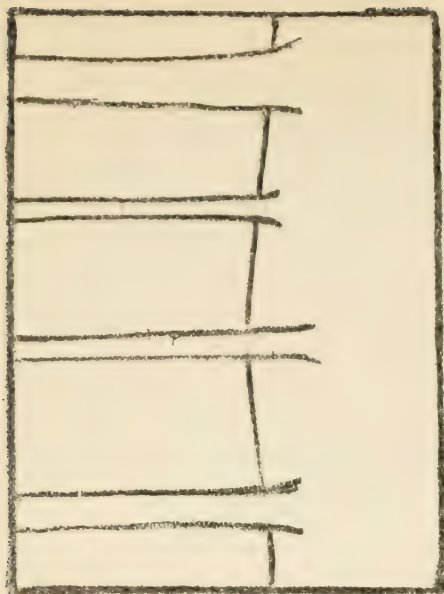
THE TWO WAYS

Scripture: JOHN 14:6. *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

High amid the mountain peaks, you may see a tiny stream trickling down over the rough rocks and through the dark woods—small at first, so small that the broken branch of a tree or some fragment of stone falling from the overhanging crag may divert it to the right hand or to the left. It seems a little matter indeed which course the stream turns to follow as it sings its way merrily down the mountain side. But it does matter; for just that turn decides whether it is to flow toward the warmer climate to a southern sea, or to empty itself at last into the cold and frozen waters of the north.

There comes a time in the life of every one for definite decision. Sometimes a person is quite young when the decision is made. Some decide to stand for right, and their whole life is spent in service for God and others. Some decide to do wrong, and their whole life is spent in sin and in the tearing down of the finer things of life.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
—Longfellow's *Psalm of Life*.



THE TREES

Scripture: MATTHEW 7 : 17. *Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

There are many kinds of trees and many kinds of people. There are *good trees*: Living, Straight, Sound, Strong, Smooth, Large: and *bad trees*: Dead, Crooked, Decayed, Weak, Rough, Small.

Living trees are helpful and beautiful, purifying the atmosphere and giving shade to the weary traveler.

Dead trees are in the way and oftentimes dangerous. Bugs, beetles, and worms find homes in them and make these trees unsafe. They are sometimes blown down.

Straight trees are symmetrical and beautiful. They keep growing; they also help others to withstand the storms.

Crooked trees are hard to handle and of little value. They hinder the growth of other trees, and their wood is full of knots and imperfections.

Sound trees are in demand as lumber. They can be used at all times.

Decayed trees become a menace, likely to be blown down at any time.

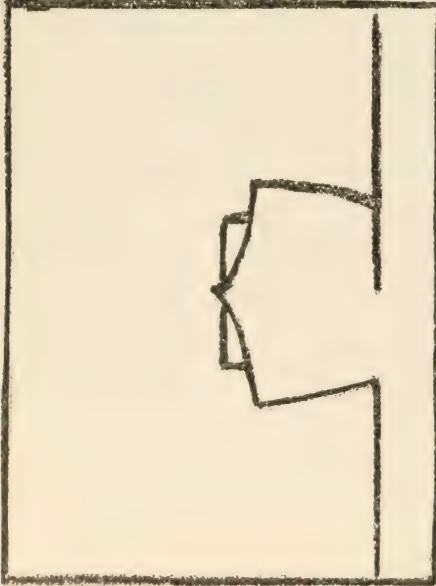
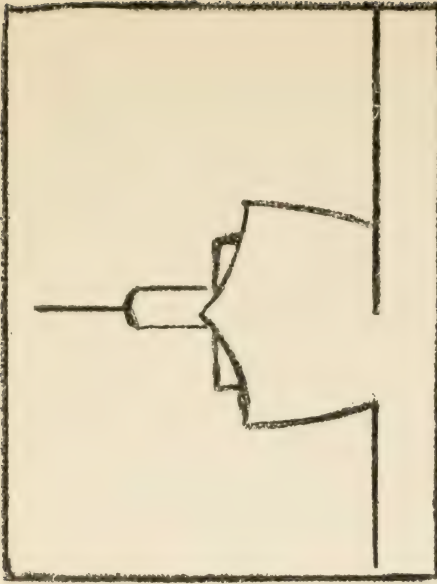
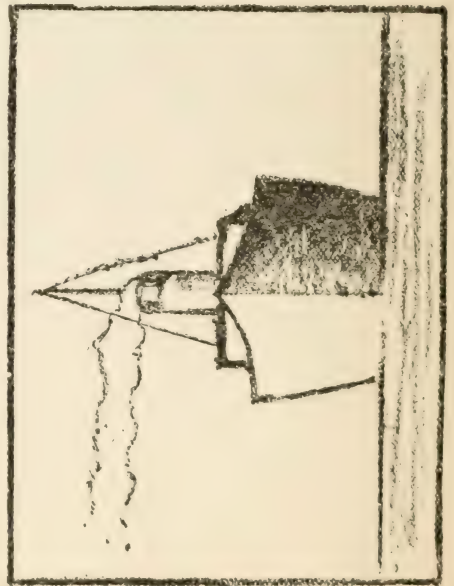
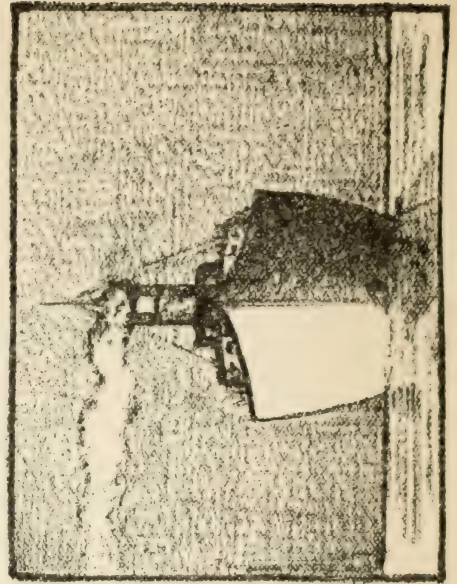
Strong trees are used for heavy and important work.

Weak trees are used only for the ordinary things of life.

Smooth trees with a fine grain furnish wood that takes a very high polish.

Rough trees with coarse grain are not fit for the finer work.

People should be like the good trees. They should live straight; and their thinking should be sound, then their character will be strong, their temper will be smooth, and their influence for good will be large.



UNSEEN INFLUENCE

Scripture: ECCLESIASTES 11 : 1. *Cast thy bread upon the waters:
for thou shalt find it after many days.*

A Scotch excursion was on. The steamer had been loaded with a great crowd of people who were out for a pleasure trip. Everyone seemed to be having an enjoyable time. Two gentlemen chanced to meet on deck and started a conversation, talking with interest on many things. They spoke of the Sunday school. "To tell the truth," said one, "I am not very enthusiastic about that kind of work. I was a teacher for many years; and after all, I seem to have done no good."

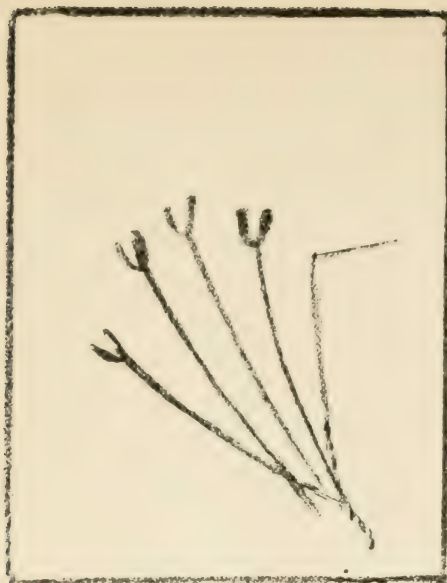
"Well," said the other, "I do believe in Sunday-school work. As a lad, I received lifelong influence for good in my old class." He then named the school with which he had once been connected.

"Were you in that school?" cried the other. "That is where I taught. Were you there in my time? My name is ——."

"Yes! I was your scholar. I remember you now, and my name is ——." They shook hands. Memories succeeded each other concerning the Sunday school unforgotten by both.

There, side by side, stood the teacher who believed that he had done nothing and the man whom he had influenced for life.

If we live well, we never live in vain,
Seed sown today will live to thrive again.
Words spoken, deeds done for Jesus, ne'er
Shall pass—and though for years forgotten,
Shall fructify at last.



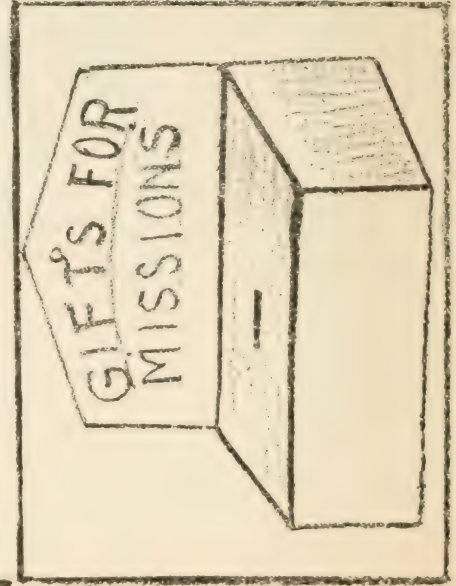
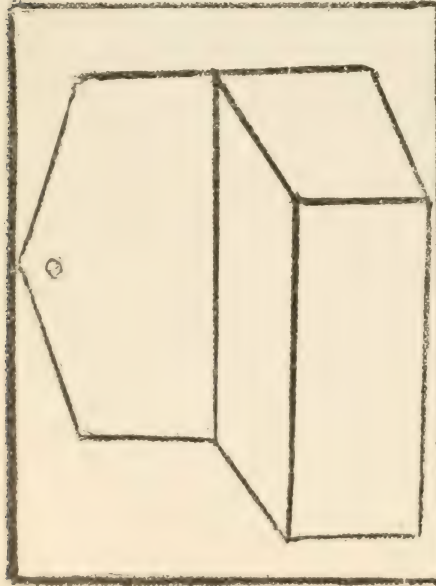
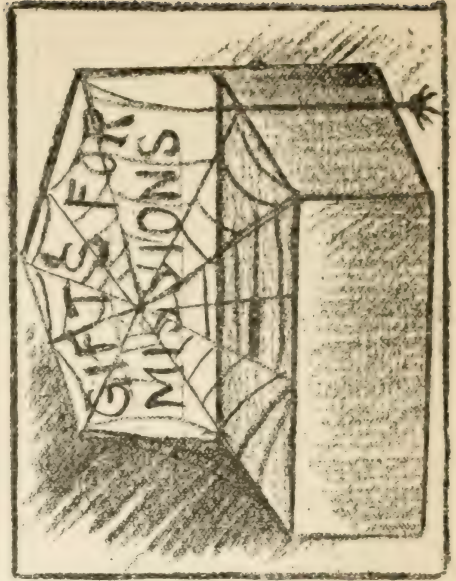
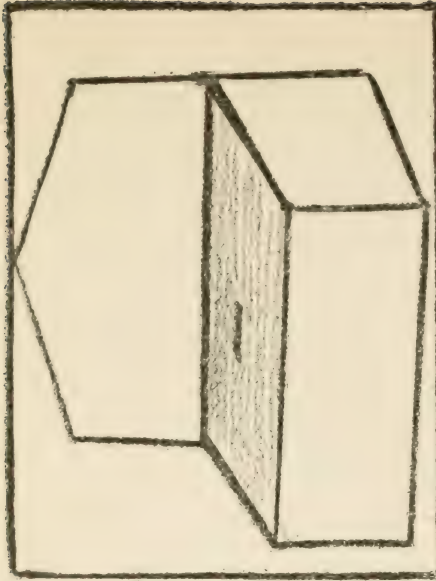
FRESH FLOWERS

Scripture: LUKE 12 : 31. *But rather seek ye first the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

A Christian nurse was employed in a home where a mother lay ill. The daughter of the house, a young girl of fifteen, had never given her heart to Christ. She feared that by so doing she might lose some of her youthful pleasures. Therefore she said that when she grew older she would give herself to Christ. The Christian nurse tried to show her the mistake she was making, but the girl could not see it.

One day the daughter came into the house bringing a beautiful bouquet of fresh carnations for her mother. The nurse commented upon their loveliness and then said, "We will not take them up to mother now. They are too fresh and beautiful. We will wait a few days."

The young girl was surprised, almost indignant, and sought an explanation. Said the nurse, "Is not this what you are doing to your loving Heavenly Father? Are you not by your conduct reserving for yourself the beauty and freshness of your young life, and waiting to offer Him the faded blossoms from which all the lovely beauty and freshness will soon have departed?" The girl felt the force of the illustration and gave her life to the Master's service. The flowers were taken up to the mother immediately.



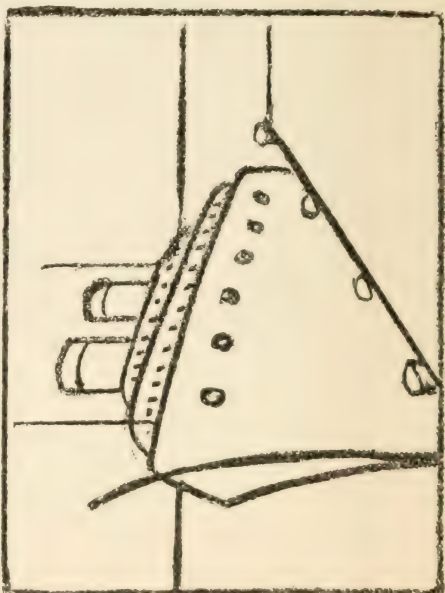
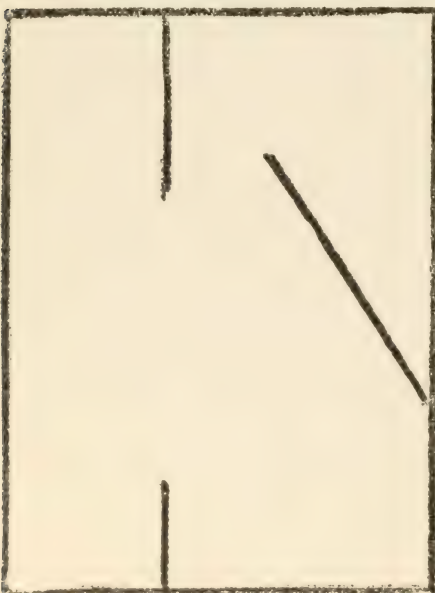
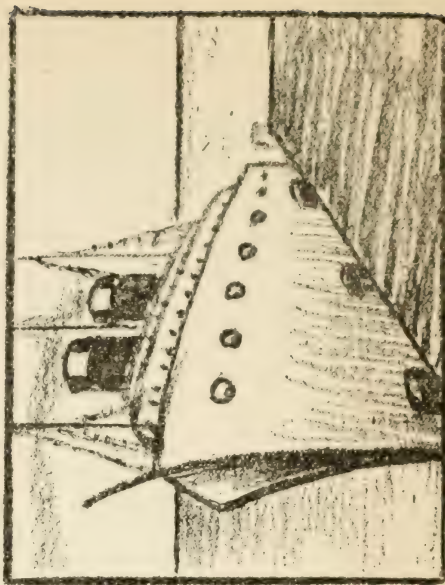
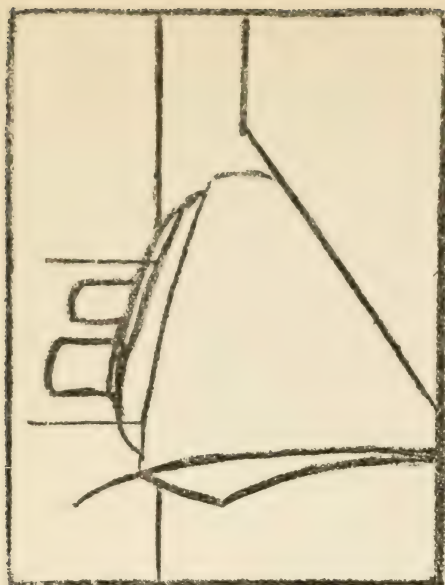
MISSIONS

Scripture: MARK 16 : 15. *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

The story has been told and retold of the artist who long ago was asked to paint a picture of a decaying church.

Instead of painting on the canvas an old tottering ruin, he painted a stately edifice of modern grandeur. Through the open portals could be seen the richly carved pulpit, the magnificent organ, and a glimpse of the beautiful stained-glass windows. Just inside the grand entrance, guarded on either side by two pillars, were the offering plates, of richly decorated workmanship. Directly above the offering plates, suspended from a nail in the wall, there hung a very simple wooden box, bearing the legend, "Collection for Foreign Missions." But right over the slot through which contributions should have gone, the artist painted a cobweb.

This was the painter's idea of what would lead to spiritual decay and be an evidence of it. He was right. Churches that do not give to missions cannot grow as they would if they were supporting missions.



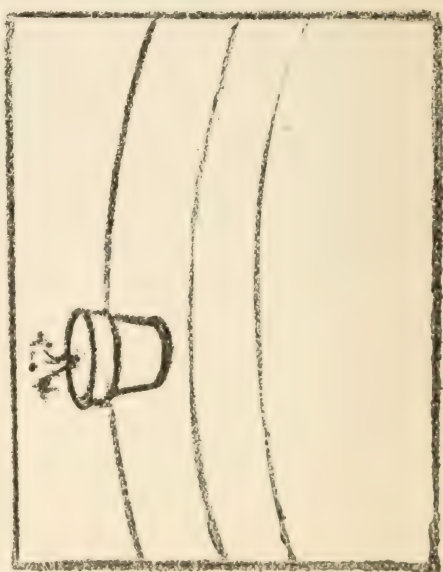
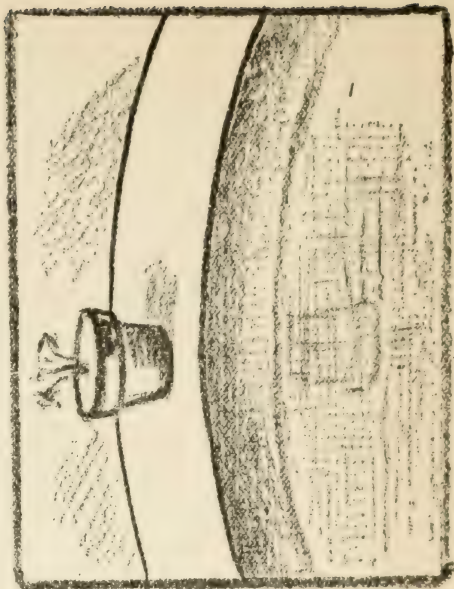
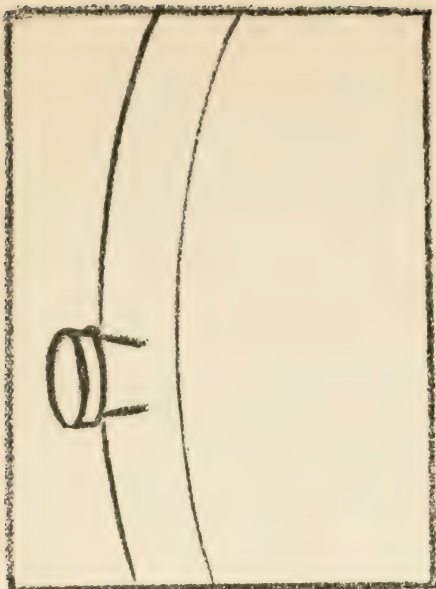
ANCHORED

Scripture: HEBREWS 6:19. *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul both sure and stedfast.*

While the great ocean steamer is in the harbor with no breeze stirring, no wind blowing, and a glassy sea spreading out to the horizon, it is not necessary to use the anchor or the big ropes to hold the ship fast. With no effort, the ship will remain where it is; even a thread or a spider web could hold it. But the captain does not ever allow the ship to go without its anchor, which he keeps ready for instant use; for when the wind comes and the billows dash high, then it is that an anchor is needed, and a rope with good fastenings must be used.

Christians who put their trust in Christ are like the ship with a safe anchor. Christ is the anchor of the soul. When there is peace and all is well, no anchor seems to be needed. But when tests and trials come, then faith in Christ, like a strong rope fastened to a good anchor, is a great satisfaction; and one cannot afford to be without Christ as the anchor of the soul.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll.



FINDING OUR PLACE

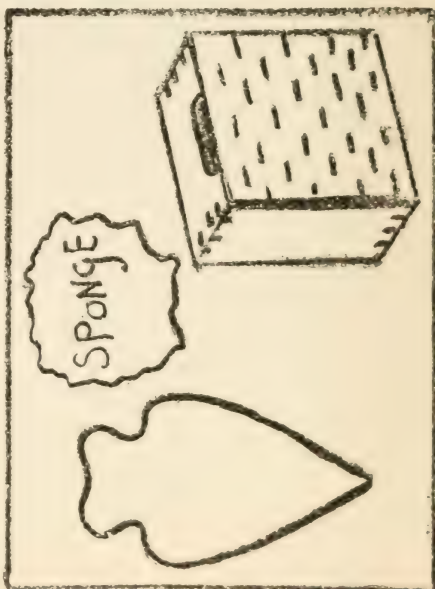
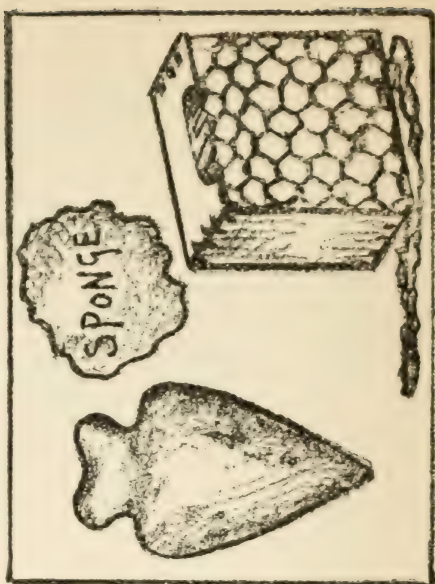
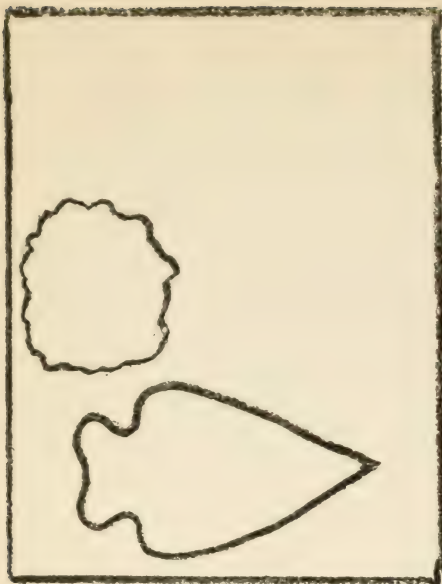
Scripture: PSALMS 63 : 1. *My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.*

A man sent to a friend of his a rare plant which he had found on his travels. The friend was very much pleased, and told his gardener to place it in a big flower pot close to a fountain basin. It never thrived. It lived, however, and in the spring it put out a delicate though stunted foliage. The gardener never could tell what was the matter with it.

One day his boy helper came along with the wheelbarrow and accidentally struck the potted flower, knocking it off into the water, plant, dirt, and all. The boy fished out the pieces of the broken pot, but could not reach the flower, for it sank to the bottom of the little pool. The boy did not trouble himself further to get it out.

Later on, when walking by the fountain one day, the owner of the garden noticed in the water a new and luxuriant growth of some unknown plant. He made careful inquiry and found out what had happened. It was then discovered that the plant in reality was a water plant, and that when planted in earth it had pined away for want of nourishment, longing for the fresh bed of the pool.

There are many hungry, thirsty, starving souls struggling along, feebly trying to live a life within themselves, shut in by conditions which do not allow them to grow. Then comes something which looks like a calamity, but which proves to be a blessing of God in disguise, a fountain of life to the soul.



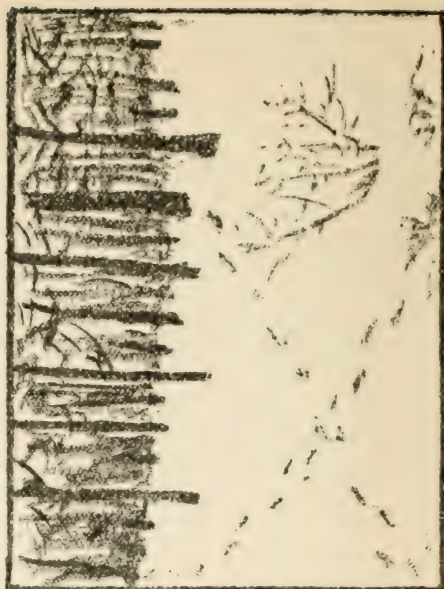
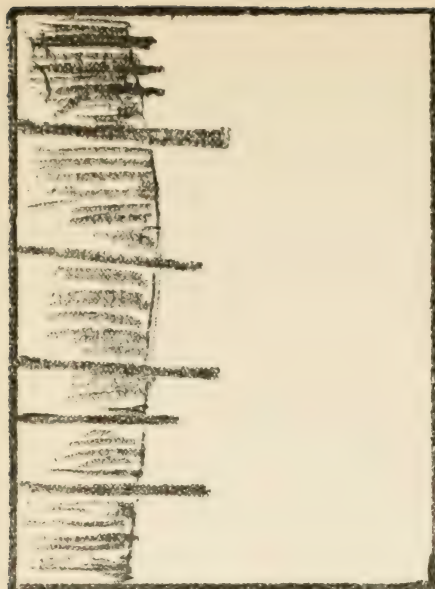
GIVING

Scripture: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7. *God loveth a cheerful giver.*

It has been suggested that there are three kinds of givers. They are typified by the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb.

To get fire out of the flint, you must hammer it, and then you get only sparks. To get water out of the sponge, you must squeeze it; and the more you squeeze the more you will get. But to get honey you need do nothing; the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness.

Some people are stingy and hard. They give nothing away if they can help it. Others are good-natured. They yield to pressure; and the more they are pressed the more they will give. A few delight in giving without being asked at all; and of these the Bible says, "The God loveth a cheerful giver."



THE FATHER'S PROTECTION

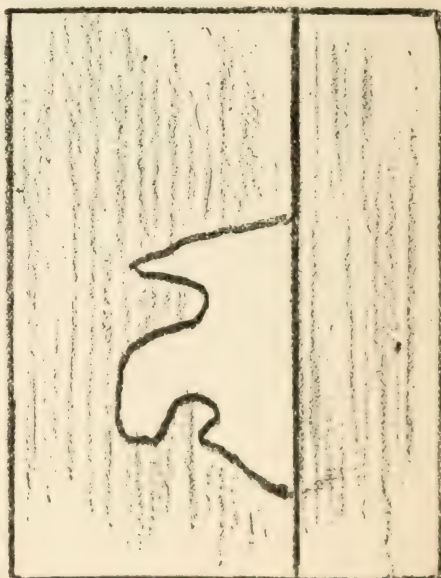
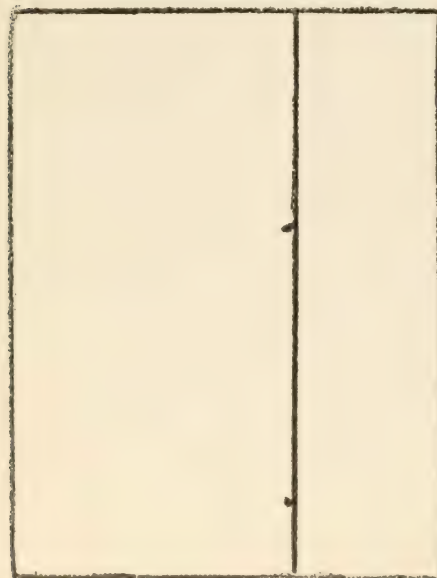
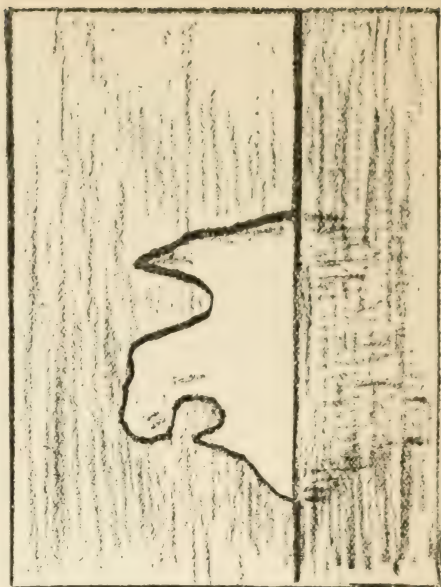
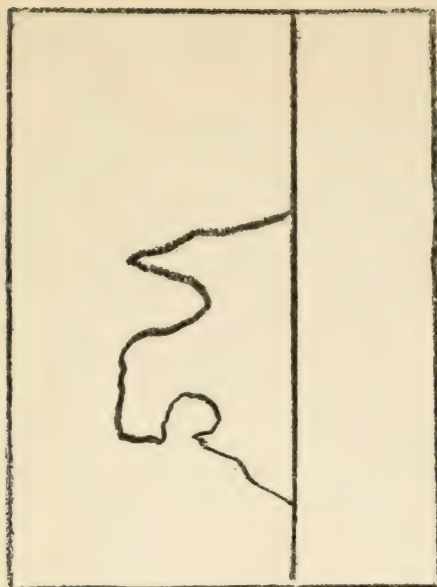
Scripture: 1 PETER 5:7. . . . *Casting all your care upon him;
for he careth for you.*

A young man took his gun and started for a hunt, promising his father to be back at a certain time. When the stated time was past and the young man had not returned, the father became uneasy. Taking his gun, he started out to find his son, thinking perhaps he must have lost his way; for the young man always kept his promise.

There was a little snow on the ground, and the father had no difficulty in tracking his son. He reached the edge of the woods and followed the footprints until he noticed the track of a panther along the trail of his son; then he hastened his steps. The trail appeared to be curving sharply to the right, as if the boy had intended to walk around the foot of a hill; so the father decided to make a short cut across, hoping to save time. After a while he picked up the trail again, near where it crossed a main path; but, studying it carefully, he noticed that the panther's tracks were not to be seen.

The father realized that he had cut in ahead of the panther, and was now between him and his son; so he hid himself in a cluster of snow-covered bushes and waited. He did not have to wait long, for the panther was on the track of the boy. On came the panther; the father raised his gun. Taking good aim, he brought down the panther and saved the boy.

There are temptations following after every boy; and boys are sometimes not aware of the dangers which are closing in on their trail. But there is watching over them a loving Father, who will protect them if they love and trust him.



THE ICEBERG

Scripture: ISAIAH 26 : 3. *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

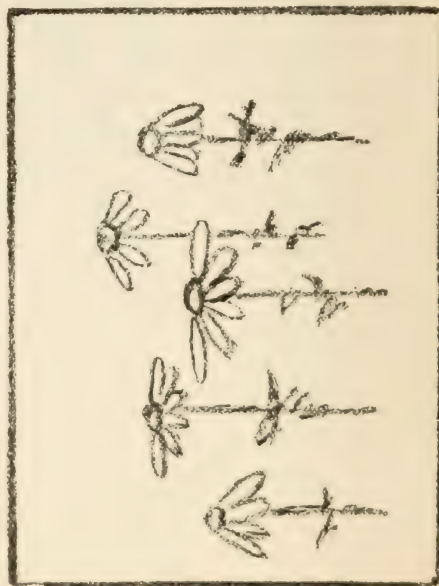
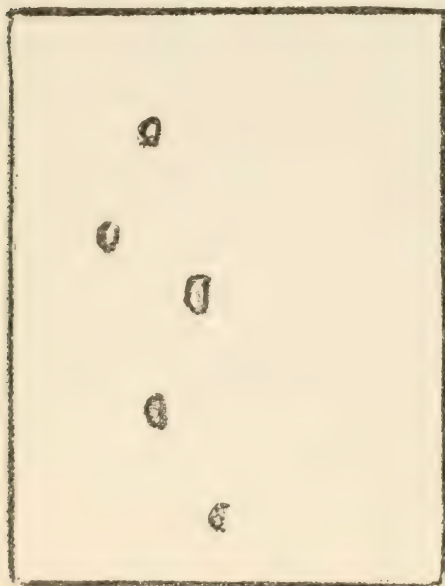
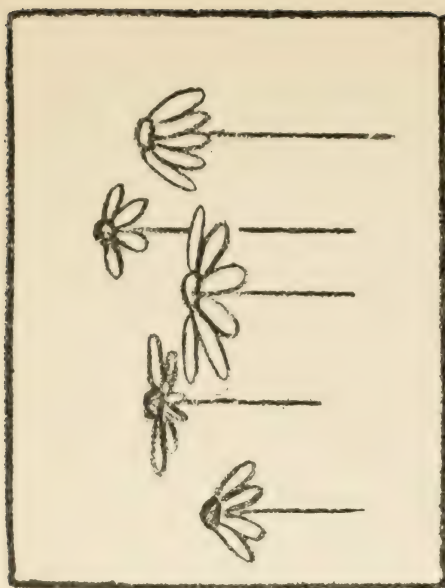
There are many stories told of the frozen north and of the great icebergs which, after the long winter, break loose from the ice fields and float away to a warmer climate. These mountains of ice are very dangerous. Sometimes an iceberg towers two, three, or four hundred feet high, like a great cathedral.

When ice is floating in water, it is so heavy that eight or nine times as much ice is under the water as is seen above. This is why an iceberg is so dangerous for ships; because one can never tell the shape and form of the part of the ice which is under the water, which may extend out from the visible part like a reef.

A missionary in Alaska, with his helper and his dog sled of provisions, was crossing an ice floe at a far northern point when the floe broke up, and he was carried away on a big block of floating ice, with a high peak at one end.

The missionary saved his helper, his dogs, and his sled, but all their provisions were lost. He and his helper, a young boy, decided they would do all they could to save themselves, and leave the rest to God.

They put up a black shirt on the highest point of ice, where it could be seen for miles, and waited. Twenty-four hours later they were rescued by some traders who saw the black shirt and knew it meant that someone was in distress. The traders put out with their boats and rescued them. So God always takes care of His own and makes a way, even where there is no way.



THE DAISIES

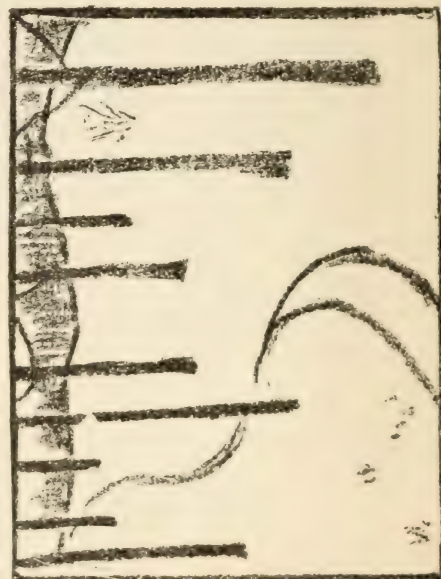
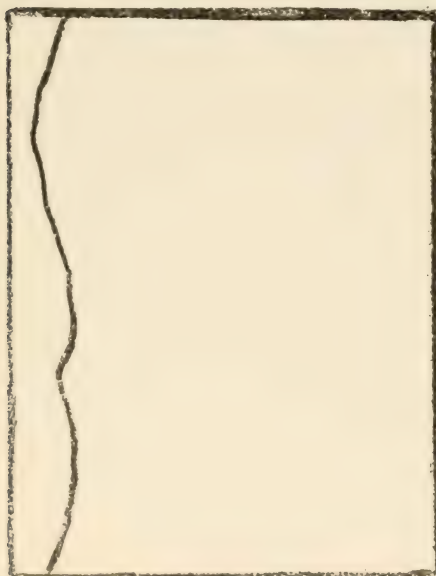
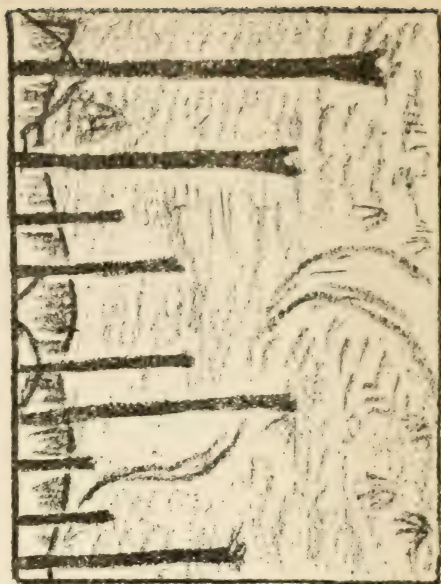
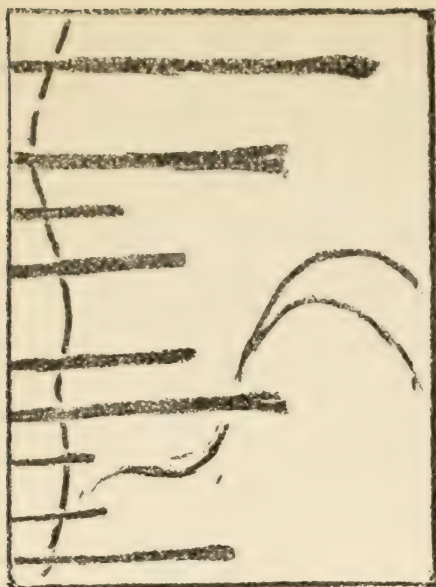
Scripture: ECCLESIASTES 9:10. *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.*

A minister of the gospel was on a train. As it neared a town in the State of New York, he looked out of the window of the car. He saw boys, girls, men, and women, all busy in the meadows gathering daisies.

When he reached the town, he got off the train and walked down the street. Before he had gone far, he saw a large store decorated with daisies. The windows were full of daisies. There were tubfuls of daisies. There were piles of daisies on the sidewalk. There were daisies on the awnings. He walked into the store, and saw there were daisies everywhere in tubs and vases. He asked for the proprietor and said, "I should like to know what this is all for."

"Oh," said the manager, "we are giving five cents a hundred for daisies. It is costing us a lot of money; but it is also paying for itself, because the people come in here to sell their daisies, and are trading with us more than ever before. We are becoming known all over the State as the 'Daisy Store,' and we are well pleased with the results."

The church or Sunday school that is using the opportunities which are growing around its door, will soon find that the efforts which it puts forth will bring greater results than it had ever expected. Give everybody a chance, and put everybody to work. Have a job for the boys, the girls, the men, and the women. Show your appreciation of their efforts.



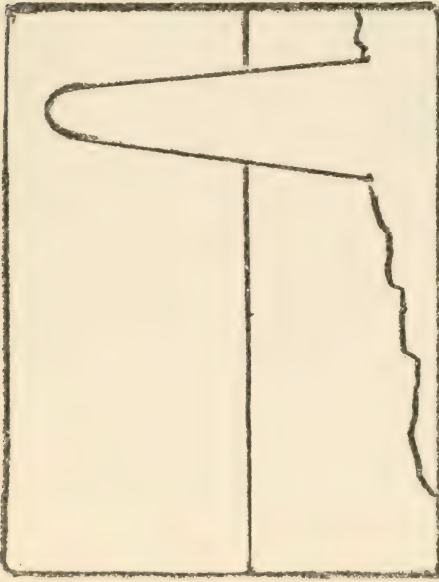
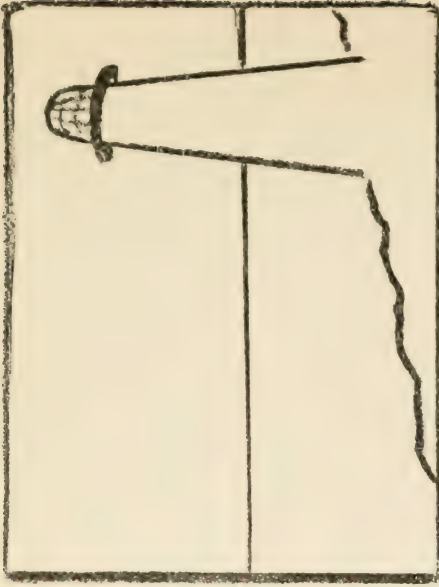
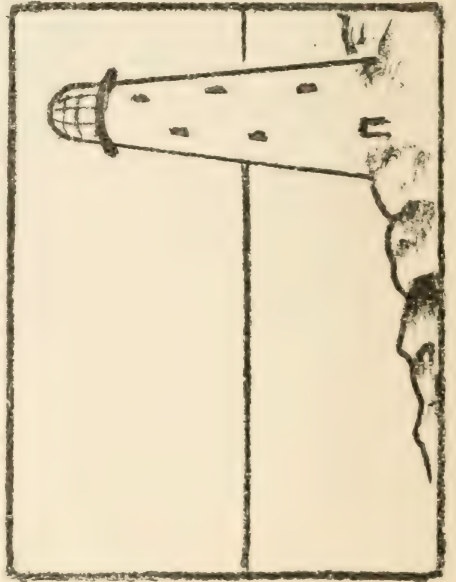
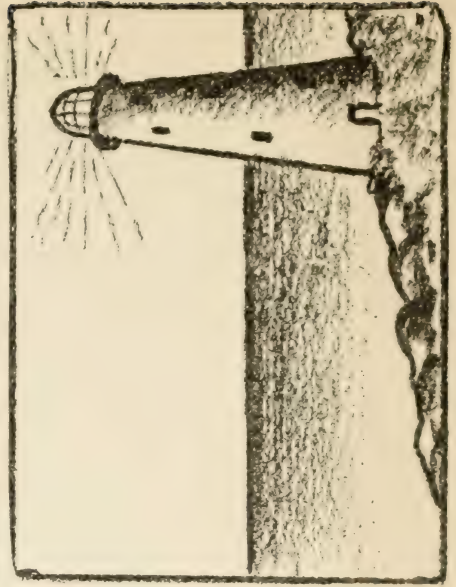
THE LITTLE BEGINNING

Scripture: LUKE 3:4. *Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

The story has been told and retold of the farmer who kept the little calf in the woods pasture, and who each day called it to the big gate to feed it. As the days lengthened into months, the little calf continued to go the same way through the woods until a path was formed. Later the farmer used this path for a road through the woods and meadow. A few years passed, and the path had become a roadway. Houses were built on either side of the road, and a town was the result.

More years rolled by; the town continued to grow, until the path, which at one time was but a crooked calf path, became the main street and thoroughfare in the city of Boston.

In the book of Luke we find our text in regard to making the path straight for the Lord. Every path, whether straight or crooked, will be followed by someone. Let us make our paths straight, so that others will not be led into crooked ways if they should follow us.



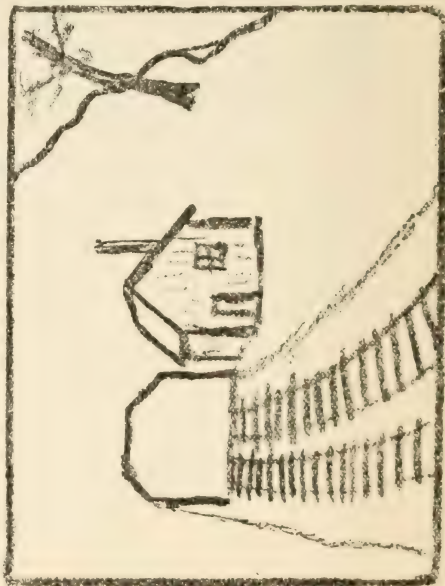
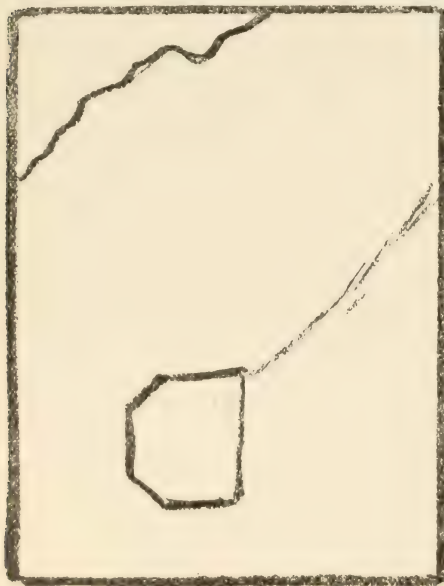
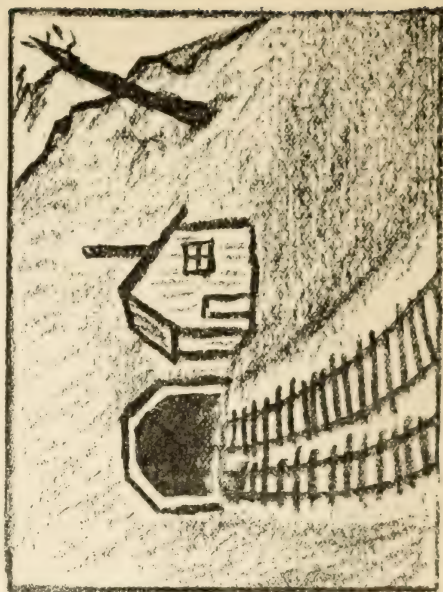
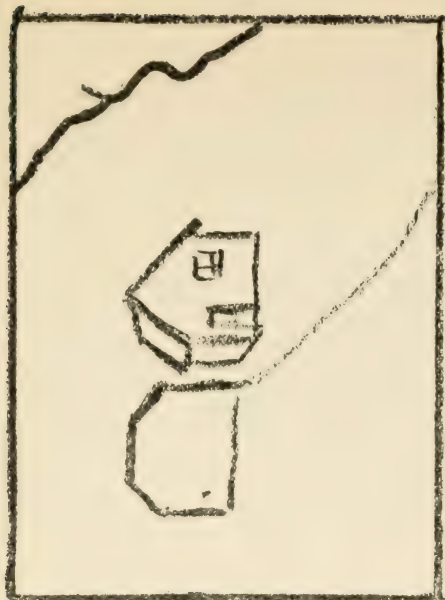
LITTLE THINGS

Scripture: MATTHEW 5:16. *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.*

The keeper of a lighthouse looked up from his book, which was keenly interesting, and glanced out of the window over the great sea and toward the light of which he had charge. He noticed that no light was coming from the big lamp; so, laying his book down, he hastened to the tower, thinking that the light had gone out in the lighthouse. But he was mistaken, for the light inside the tower was shining brightly.

He looked to see why it did not shine out, and found that bugs and beetles had packed themselves so closely together on the glass which protected the big lamp from the storms that the light could not penetrate the darkness. The keeper of the lighthouse said, "I must attend to this. In the morning, I will have it fixed." He then returned to his book and finished the interesting story; but, while he was reading, two ships were wrecked on the rocks below.

There are those who have the light of Jesus in their soul; but, because of their carelessness, the beetles of sin have so surrounded their lives that the world would never know that the love of Jesus was there. They give no light to help other souls, out on the ocean of sin, sailing toward the rocks of destruction. Will you not clear your windows with prayer, letting your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven?



THE LEADERS

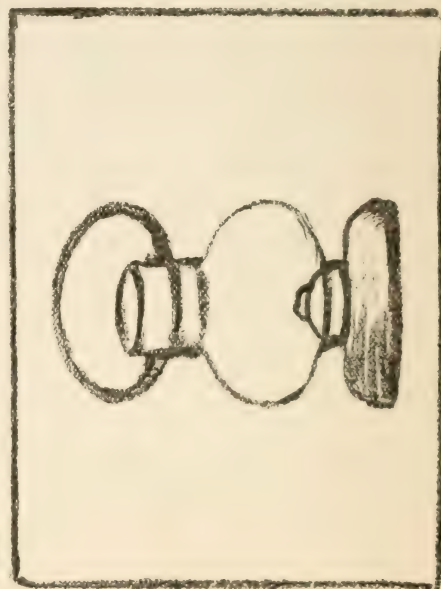
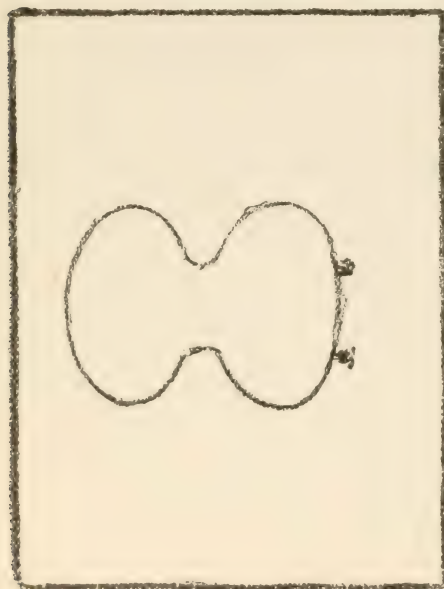
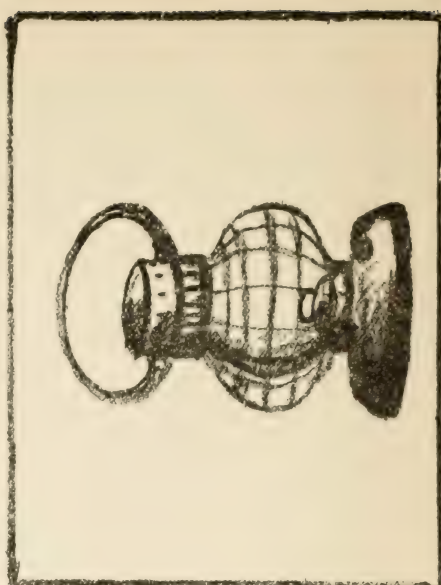
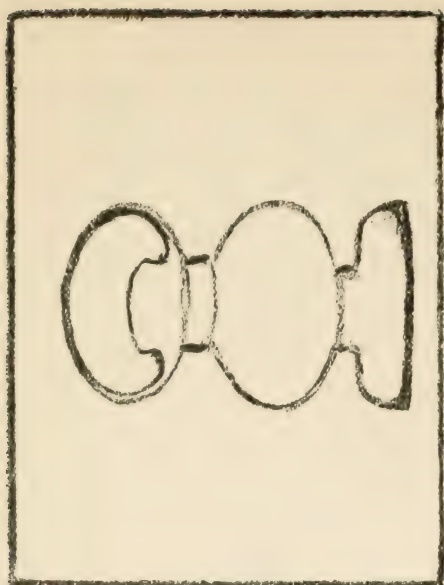
Scripture: EPHESIANS 2 : 1. *You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

The big mine located at the edge of the mountain had caved in at one of the entrances and had entombed a gang of workingmen. The news was sent out, and the people gathered. The boss was notified, and he hastened up the track. While others were wringing their hands, he rushed up, threw off his coat, grabbed a pick, and began to dig. One man standing by said, "What are you going to do?"

"Do! I am going to dig them out." That was the right spirit, and others taking picks and shovels went to work. It was not long until the men were dug out and rescued.

The world is needing leaders today who will take the pick and shovel of righteousness and lead the forces in the rescue of lost souls. Men and women, boys and girls are needed today who will be leaders in the rescue work of the ones who are entombed in sin's dark night.

You who were dead in trespasses and sins hath He quickened, that you may be leaders.



NO OIL

Scripture: PSALMS 27:1. *The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

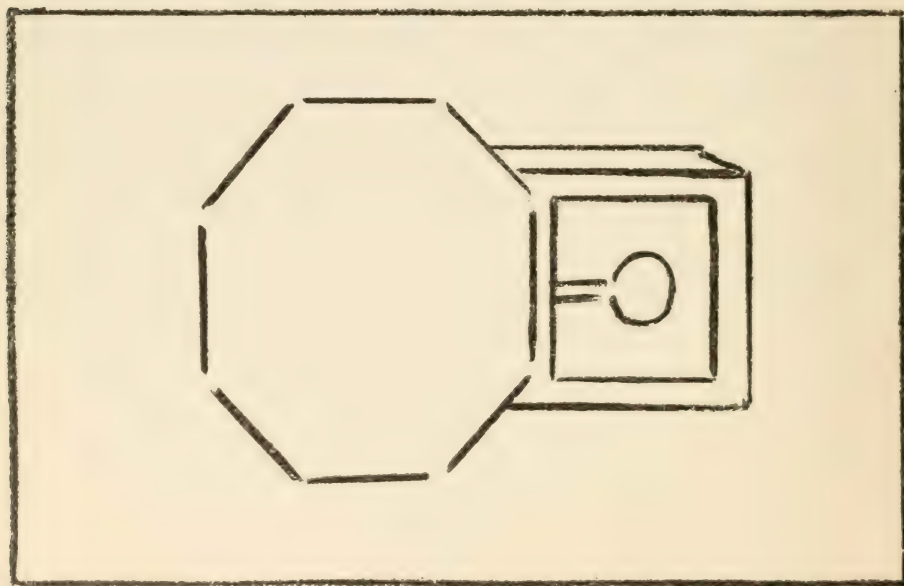
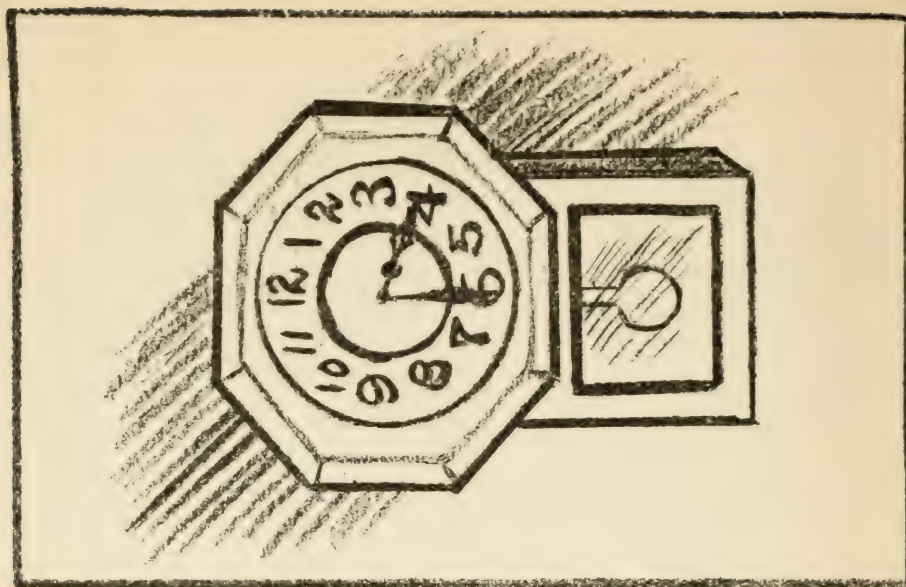
An old negro was employed by a railroad company to be the watchman at a dangerous crossing. One day an accident happened. It was in the evening when the fast train was coming to the crossing, and a man with a horse and buggy was nearing this dangerous place. The watchman saw both the train and the buggy. He immediately took his lantern and waved it across the road. But the buggy came on! The train struck it, killing the horse, breaking the buggy, and injuring the man.

A lawsuit followed. The only witness for the railroad company was the negro. He said, "Ah done wave ma lantuhn 'cross de road, an' de man in de buggy kep' on comin'."

After the trial was over, the manager of the road thanked the old negro for winning the case for them. "Your testimony was so clear and forceful," he said, "that it won the case for us."

"But, boss," said the negro, "I come neah losin' it; fo' if they done ask me one question mo', we sho' would have los' de case. Yo see, dere was no oil in dat lantuhn fo' fo' weeks, and dere was no light dere."

There are souls who stand as watchmen at the crossing of life, where youth needs to see the right warning; but if there is no oil of salvation in their lives, they cannot reflect the light of Jesus to the coming generation.



THE CLOCK

Scripture : PSALM 24 : 3-4. *Who shall stand in His holy place?
He that hath clean hands and a pure heart.*

The clock was striking the hour. The visitor looked up and said, "Your clock seems to be out of gear."

The owner replied, "That clock is all right if you only know how to read it. When it points to twenty minutes after four and strikes nine, then I know it is a quarter to seven."

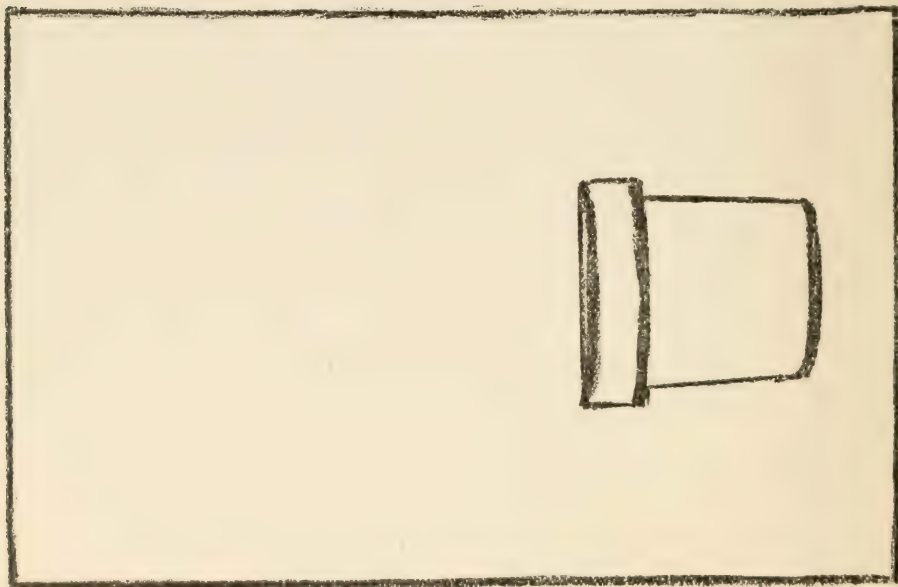
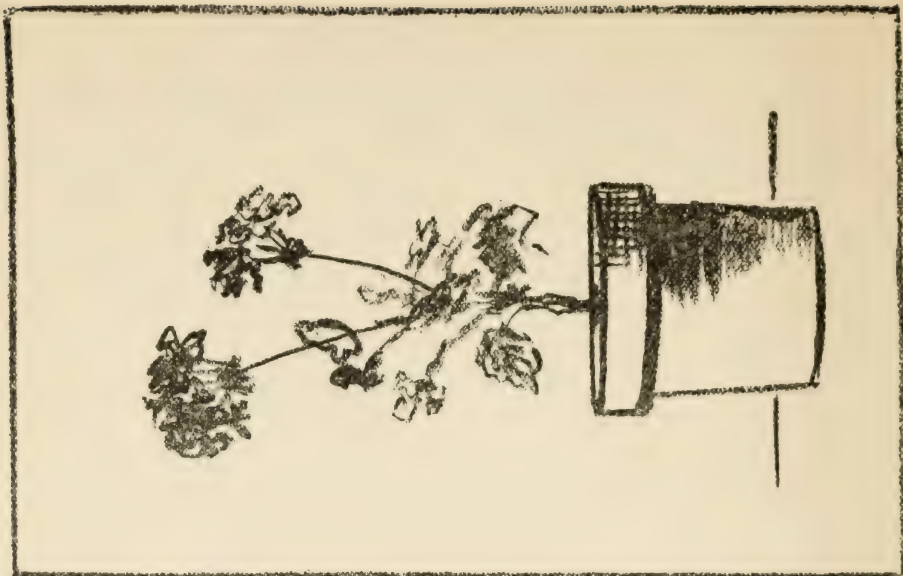
There are people who need to be known quite as well as the clock before they can be understood. The ordinary signs of thought or feeling which appear on the surface of their demeanor are misleading to all but those who know them.

Clocks are of all sizes, shapes, and forms. They are big, little, old, and new. Each has a face, hands, and a heart, or mainspring, which keeps it going. Each has a place to stay and the time of day to tell. A clock may be slow or fast; it may tell the truth or may lie.

Human nature is like the clock in many ways. People are of all sizes, big, little, old, and young. They have faces and hands which often reveal a great deal. And they have hearts, which keep them alive.

The human heart is the mainspring; if it is working properly, the hands and face will show good results. If it is not working right, the hands and face will register trouble.

Speaking the truth is an absolute essential of a right life, as telling the right time is of a clock. If certain disorders in the clock are attended to immediately after they are discovered, they may be easily corrected. So it is with falsehood when it appears in young life.



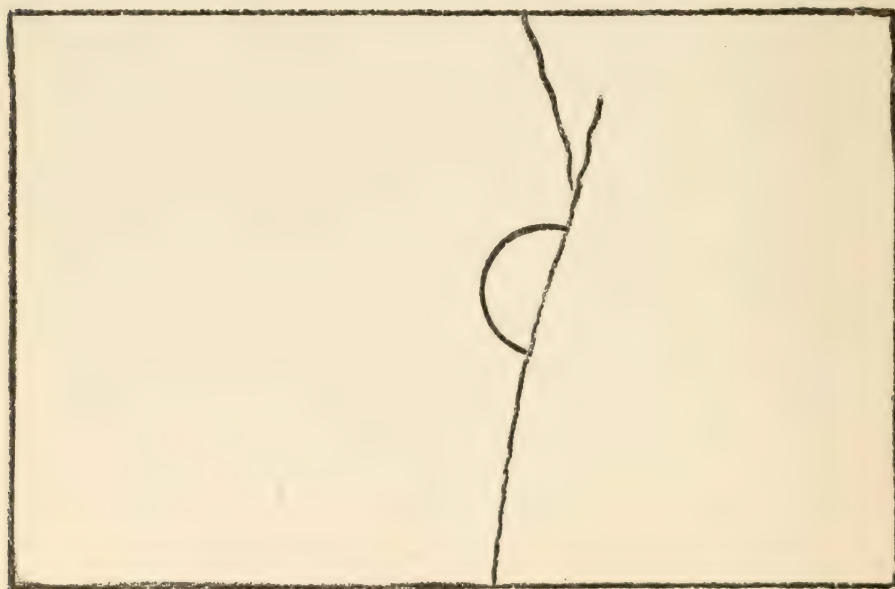
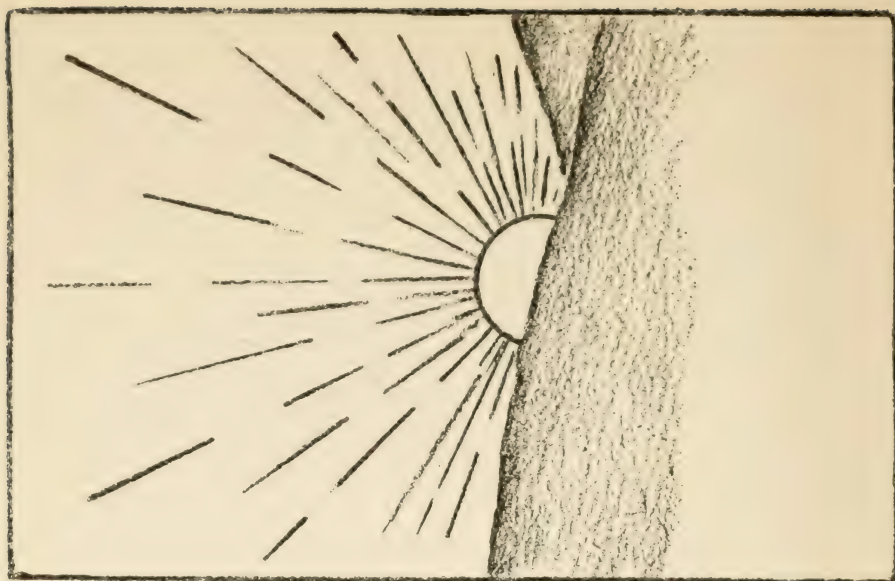
OBEDIENCE

Scripture: LUKE 10:27. *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind.*

A child was given a beautiful potted geranium plant in bloom, and was asked by her mother to take it to a dear friend who was ill. Instead of delivering the plant, she plucked some of the leaves and handed them to the friend, keeping the plant for herself. Every day or two she came to the sick friend bringing a leaf, or a bud, or a flower to give to her. Did she obey her mother's wishes? Nothing but giving the whole plant, leaves, flowers, and all, would have fulfilled the mother's desire.

God commands us to love Him with our whole heart. Shall we, then, pluck off a leaf of love now and then, a little bud or flower of affection, when it best suits us? Or shall we give our whole life unreservedly to Him for His use and let Him direct our path? Let us find the pleasure of a Christian life by a full surrender, loving the Lord with our whole heart, soul, strength and mind, obeying His every command.

'Tis great to build a tower or way—
But greater yet is to obey!
So let this lesson well be taught:
Obedience is with greatness fraught!



THE LIGHT

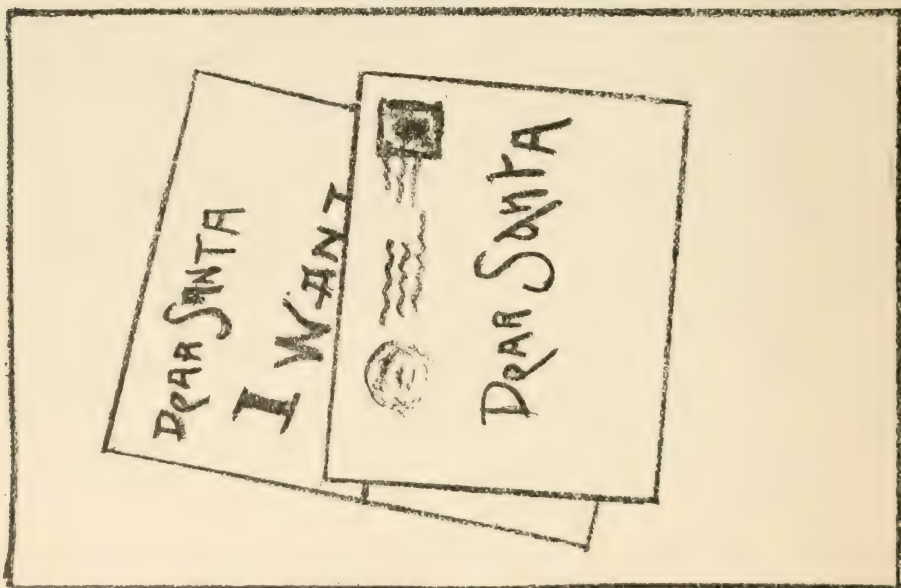
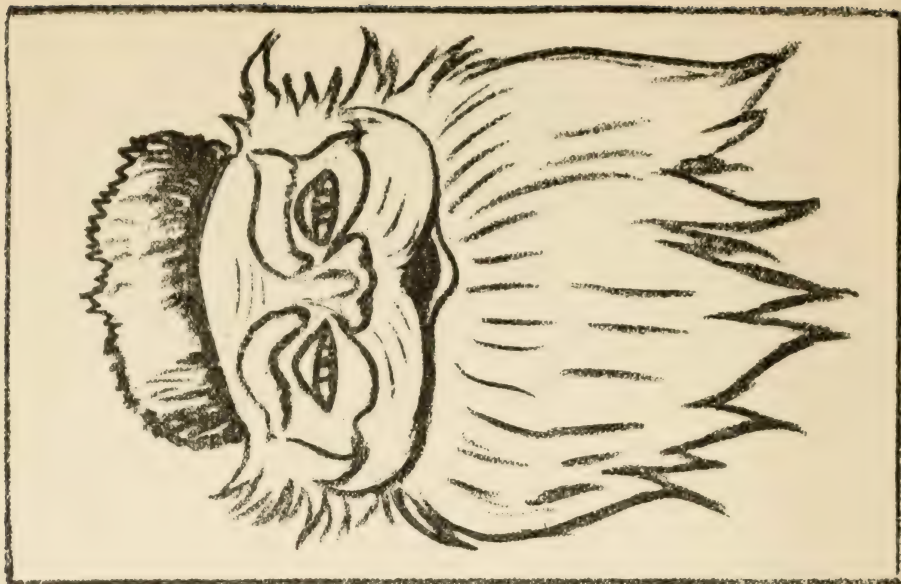
Scripture: 1 JOHN 1:7. *If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.*

Do you know of anything in this world so incredible as sunlight? It comes to us from ninety-three million miles away, traveling its long journey through space colder than ice and darker than the blackest night. Yet, to the earth on which it shines, it brings light and warmth. This sunlight dries up the muddy places, causes all nature to grow, beautifies the hillsides, and paints the flowers with their many colors.

If, after hearing this, one should say, "Well, I do not believe it," that would not keep the sun from shining. It would shine just the same on the individual who made this remark, and giving him light and warmth. Should he want corn to grow in his field, and would plant the corn, the sun would give it light and warmth, and draw the water from the ocean to give it moisture.

Like the sun in the sky is the Sun of Righteousness with all His wonderful power. He gives to the world all the blessings of life, whether the world believes in Him or not.

God, make my life a little light,
To shine upon the way—
Fill then my life with glory bright,
Reflecting Thee each day.



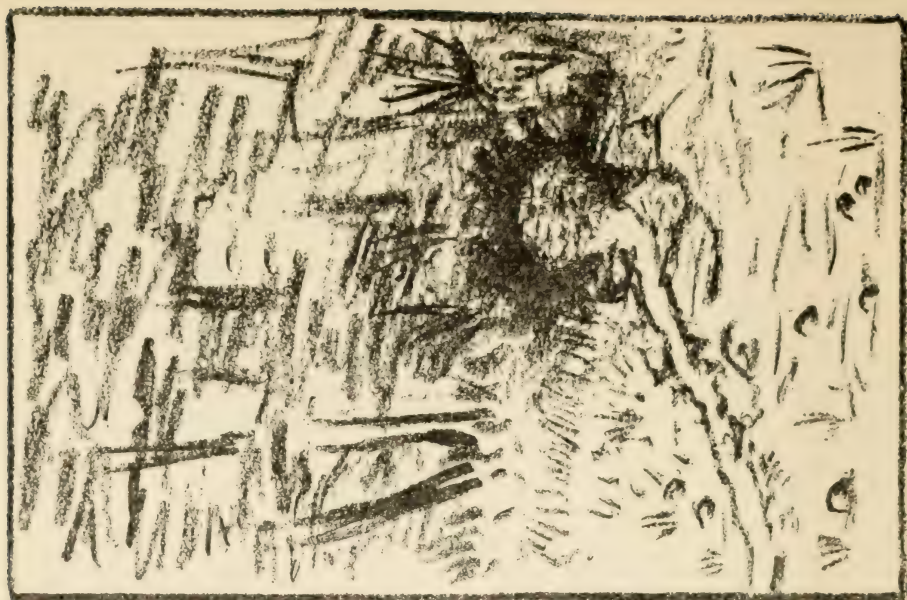
THANKSGIVING

Scripture: 1 THESSALONIANS 5 : 18. *In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

At the joyous Christmas season, the spirit of giving seems to influence everyone to give; and this is a splendid thing to do. Many boys and girls write letters to Santa Claus. They tell him what they want, and what they hope he will bring little brother and sister. Also, they do not forget daddy and mother.

It was found, during a recent year, that although thousands of letters from children addressed to Santa reached the dead letter office before Christmas, yet, in the whole month following, only one letter came to Santa Claus with a message of thanks.

There were ten lepers cleansed, but only one returned to thank the Healer. Yet they had all received the same benefit. It is always good to remember and appreciate the gifts of others. But we should also remember and show our appreciation of the greatest gift of all, JESUS CHRIST, and thank Him, showing our appreciation in service and love.



THE SPRING

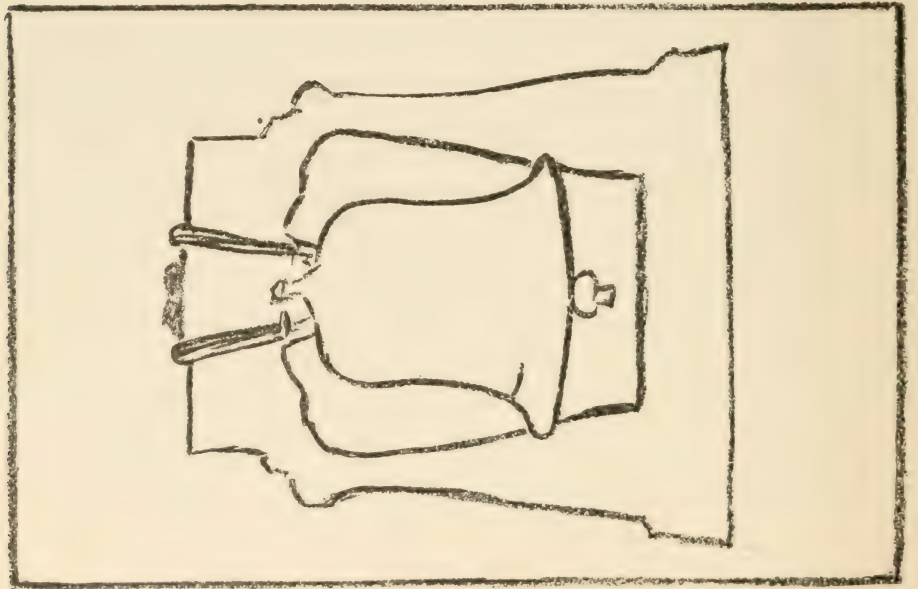
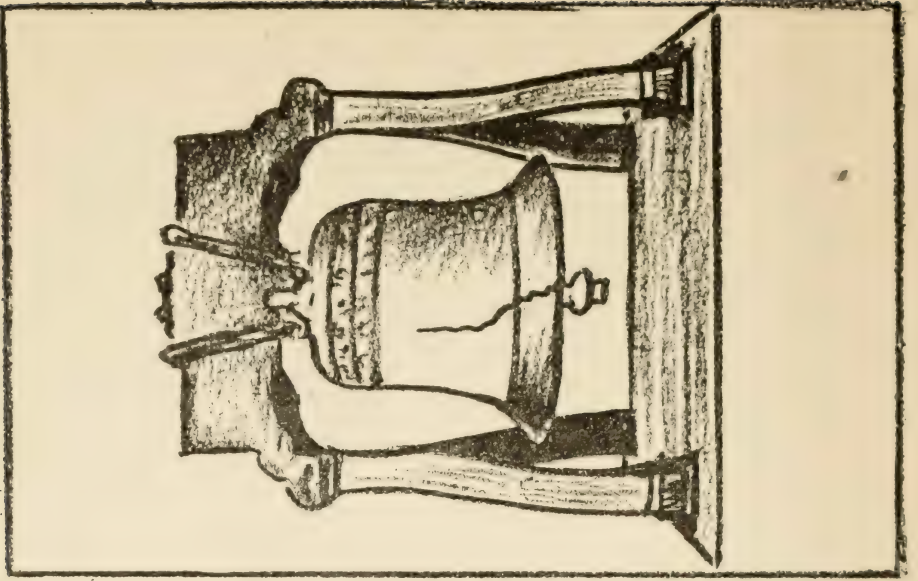
Scripture: REVELATION 22:17. *And let him that is athirst come.
And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

A little girl visited in the country for the first time. While there, she was taken out into the beautiful woods. On coming to a cool spring, she was delighted and full of wonder. When she reached home, she said to her mother, "Oh, mamma, we found down in the woods a place where God can get water without turning a faucet."

Man has many devices for pumping, storing, and distilling water; but nature is the great distributing agency; and nature is God's way of working.

Did you ever stop to think that God gives drink to every creature? When the rain falls on the trees and fields, the flowers and the vegetation receive their drink. The earth then takes care of what is left and helps store it up for other days, sending it out of the ground in little springs. These springs flow down to the little brook; the brook flows to the stream; and the stream on to the river and the ocean. The ocean then feeds the water back to the clouds through the agency of the sun.

Just so, God's love is shed abroad upon His children, permeating the life, giving new strength to the soul. Refreshed by these showers of blessing, the Christian life pours out kind deeds for others, as the cool spring in the woods gives its fresh water. A loving Christian character has its influence on the rough and harsh as well as on the pure and good.



THE BELL

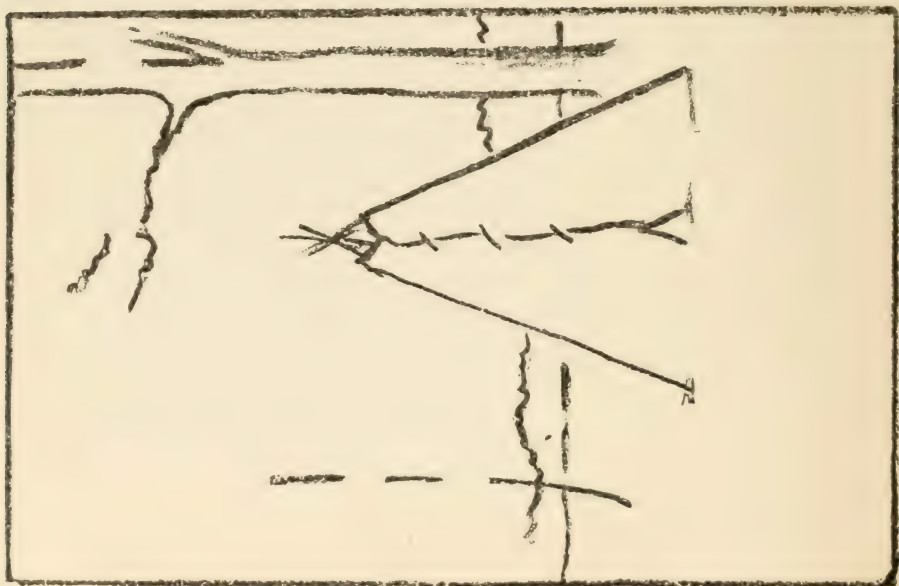
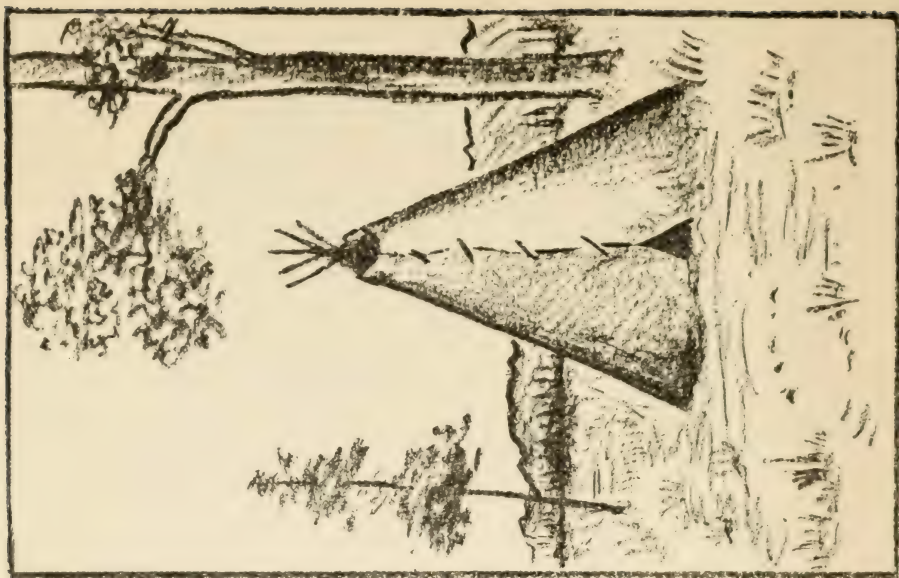
Scripture: LEVITICUS 25:10. *Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof.*

This verse is the inscription around a certain great bell, very old, with a large crack down one side, which can be seen in the city of Philadelphia. In the year 1752, this bell was brought to America from England. Having been broken very soon, it was recast in 1753; and thirteen years later was used to announce the Declaration of Independence. For years it was rung on the Fourth of July, each year, until a large crack appeared in its side, which made it impossible to ring the bell. There in Independence Hall it stands, kept for what it has been, treasured as the old Liberty Bell.

A bell reminds one of a life. When it is manufactured, it has in its make-up material which, if molded correctly, will make music sweet and true as long as the metal is sound. The clear, sweet tone of a musical bell has in it something that thrills the heart and inspires it with emotion.

But bells lose their clear, sweet tones when their metal is cracked or covered with rust or debris. A crack in the bell is bound to get larger, so that the tones are ruined and the bell becomes useless.

People often forget that little faults creep into their lives and spoil their influence and usefulness, as a little crack can cause the ruin of a great bell. Sins that do not look very large may, nevertheless, spoil the tone of a life. When you let a sin creep into your life, you never can tell how large it will grow. Sin may be forgiven, but the effects may never be erased or corrected. The best way is to keep the life sound, sweet in tone, and free from cracks.



KINDNESS

Scripture: LUKE 6:38. *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.*

Long years ago, when this country was newly settled, an Indian came to the inn at Litchfield, Connecticut, and asked for food, saying that he had no money with which to pay for it. The hostess drove him away; but, as the disappointed Indian was leaving, a man who was sitting near by asked the woman to give the Indian what he wanted, saying that he would pay for it.

Supper being ended, the Indian thanked the man who had given it to him, saying that he would some day repay him for his kindness. Years passed by; and during an attack on the town of Litchfield, the kind-hearted settler was taken prisoner by a hostile tribe of Indians and carried off to Canada.

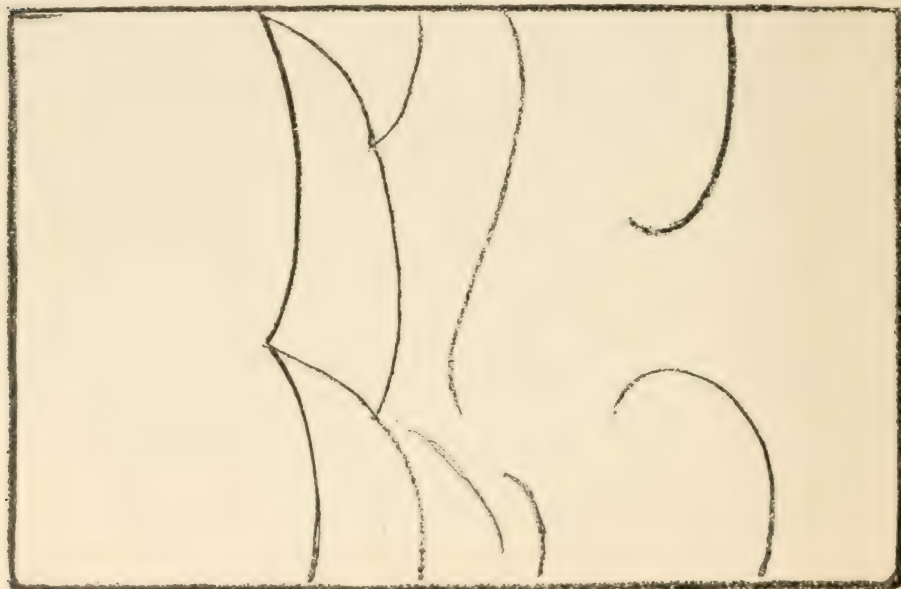
One day, when the prisoner was wondering if he should ever see his home again, a strange Indian came to him. Giving him a musket, he bade the white man follow him.

The Indian did not tell him where they were going or what was his object; but day after day the captive followed his mysterious guide, until one afternoon they came upon cultivated fields and houses rising among them. "Do you know this place?" asked the Indian.

"Oh, yes! It is Litchfield," cried the white man joyfully.

The Indian explained, "I am the starving Indian on whom, at this very place, you took pity; and now I have paid for my supper. I bid you go home."

There are times when a kind deed is not hard to perform and may mean a great deal to the person who receives it.



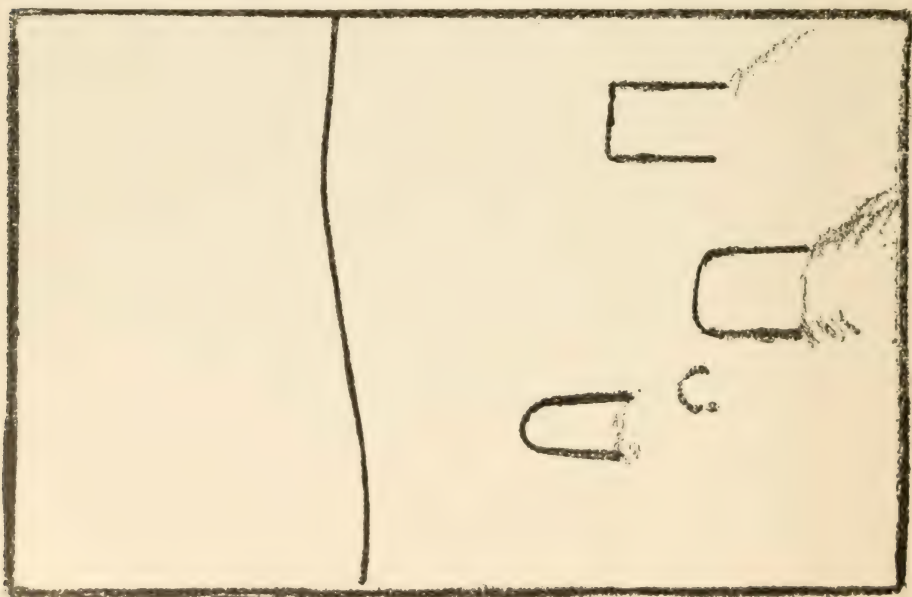
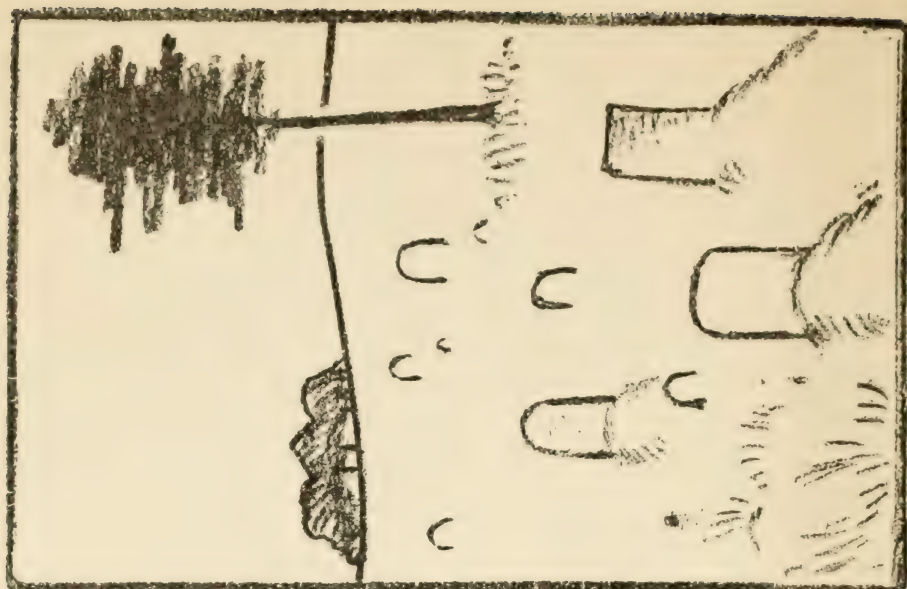
REALITY

Scripture: PSALMS 24:1. *The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*

Should you look upon one of the masterpieces of painting, a picture of the sea with the fury of the storm upon it, the wind piling great waves just ready to break, deep-crested, with foam as white as snow, you might half expect to see the billows break and dash upon the shore. But no such thing happens; all is still, for this is but a picture of the sea.

The other day, I saw the sea itself. Every wave, as it pounded the great rocks, dashed itself to pieces, seeming to shout, "I am strength, force, power, the sea—the real sea!" The difference between the picture of the waves and the actual waves was the power of reality.

There are those who try to substitute an imitation for the gospel of Christ; who try to build up a church without Christ, building it on human principles alone, which must fail. But the church of Christ is not an imitation. It is the real life, strength, force, and power. Christ is the living church.



SILENCE

Scripture: PSALMS 46:10. *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

A young man, suffering from the sharp tongues of critics, applied to St. Macarius of Egypt for spiritual advice.

After listening carefully and weighing the troubles of the man who had come to him, the old saint advised him what to do. "Go to a cemetery," he said, "and upbraid the dead. Reprimand them for their mistakes and for the sins which they committed during their sojourn on earth. Tell them that the world is far better off since they are out of it. When you have done this, listen closely to the reply which they give to you.

"After you have taken this course and learned the effect it has upon the dead, then praise them for the noble works in which they were engaged while on earth. Tell them that they can never be forgotten, but that the memory of their noble life will live forever and that generation after generation will praise them. Listen to the answer; then come to me."

The young man did as he was directed; and, upon his return to make his report, St. Macarius said, "Well, how did the dead receive your abuse of them?"

"They answered not a word," he replied.

"And how did they behave when you flattered them?"

"They took no notice of that either."

"Go," said Macarius, "and do thou likewise."

The best way to take abuse is to remain silent. There can be no quarrel where only one takes part. And when someone is praising you, it is always best to keep still and let such good things as are said be said without your comment.



THE UGLY OLD LAWYER

Scripture: ROMANS 12:17. *Recompense to no man evil for evil.
Provide things honest in the sight of all men.*

During the American Civil War, two gentlemen were walking across a small park in Washington. They observed President Lincoln just ahead of them. He had met a crippled soldier, who was in a rage and cursing the government from the President down.

Mr. Lincoln stopped and asked what was the matter. "Matter?" snarled the soldier, resting on his crutch and pounding the ground with his cane. "Matter enough! I am just out of a rebel prison. I have been honorably discharged, and I can't get my money."

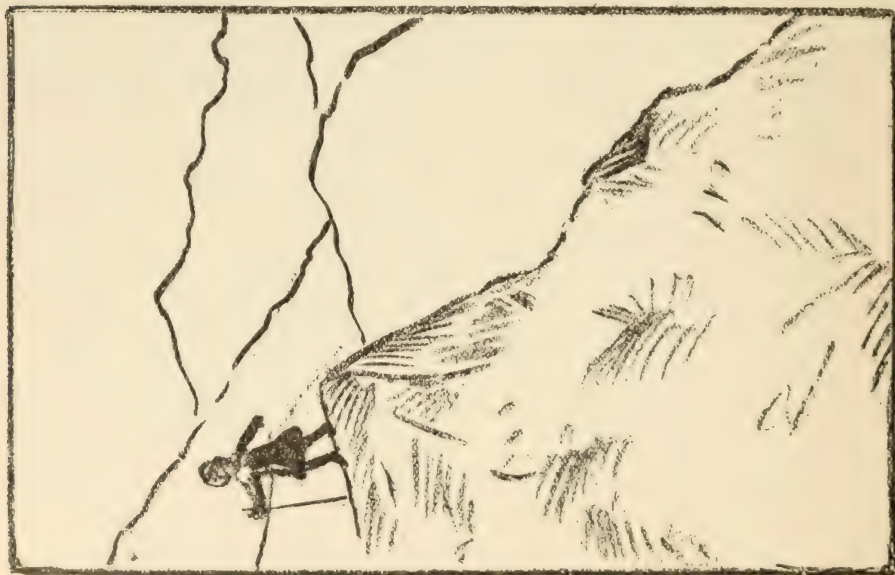
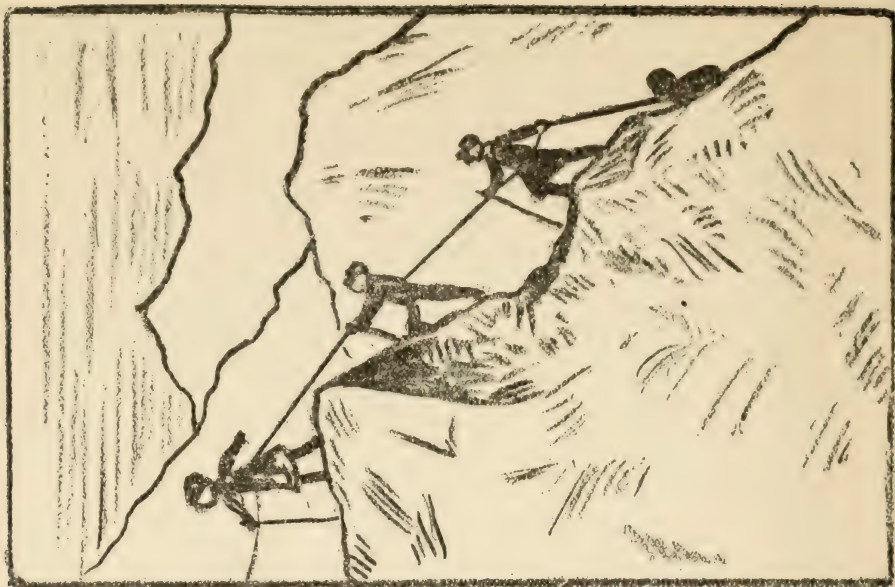
"Have you your papers with you?" asked Mr. Lincoln. "I used to be a lawyer, and perhaps I can help you."

The soldier produced the papers, and Mr. Lincoln took them. Mr. Lincoln examined the papers, wrote a line on the back of them, and told the soldier to carry them to the chief clerk of the War Department.

After Mr. Lincoln had passed on, the gentleman asked the soldier if he knew who had been talking to him. "Some ugly old fellow who pretends to be a lawyer," was the answer.

"That was the President," the man replied. The soldier then looked at his papers. He found a note written to the clerk to examine the papers, and, if everything was correct, to give the man his money. The note was signed "A. Lincoln." The soldier felt ashamed; he would not have treated Lincoln so had he known who he was.

People entertain angels unawares. One does not always know who is watching.

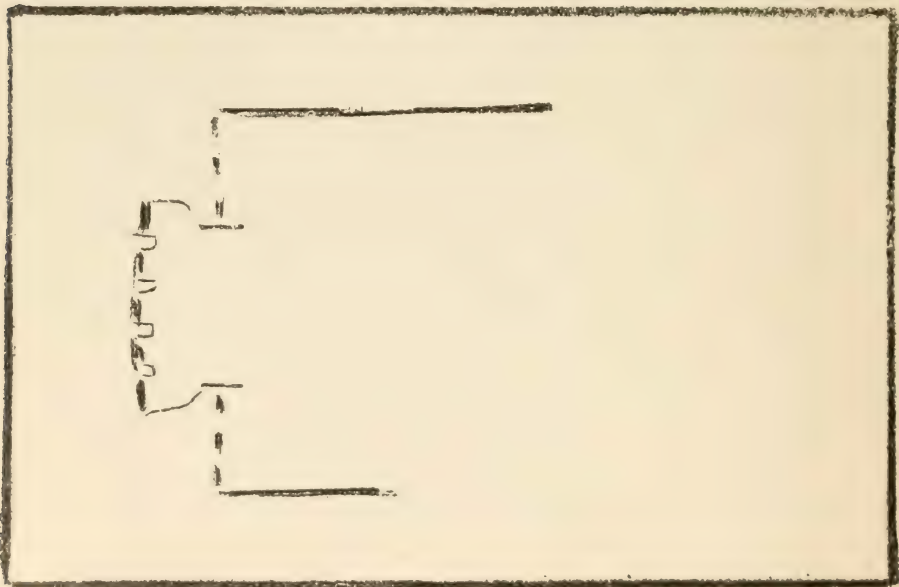
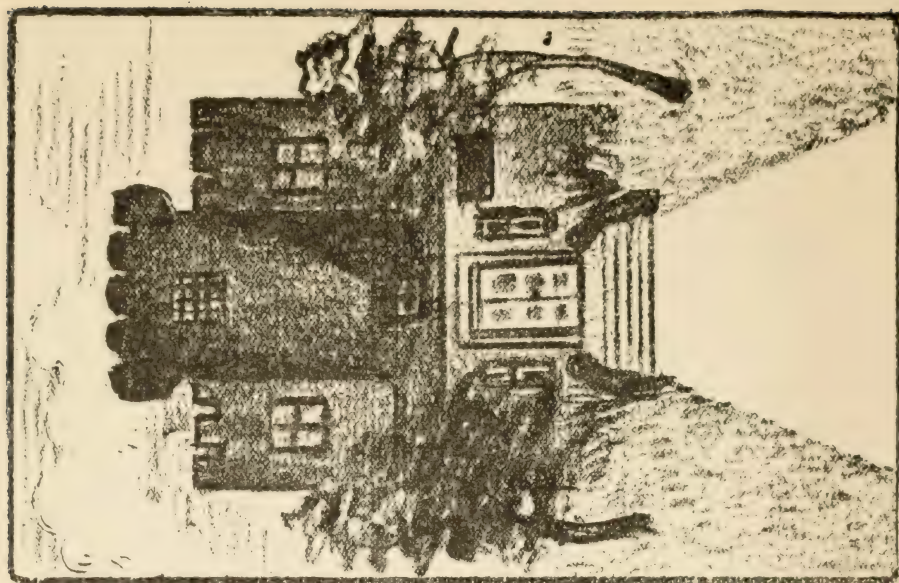


MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Scripture: PSALM 32 : 8. *I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.*

A father took his family for a climb in the mountains. He felt that it was unnecessary to have a guide. Securing a rope, he fastened it, as a guide would have done, to each member of the party, so that they formed a line, and they started up the mountain. They enjoyed the trip, and all went well until they came to steep cliffs and rough jagged rocks reaching skyward. At this part, the path was not clear. The bare ground and the rocks all looked alike. They kept on climbing, but soon lost their way. Then it was they wished for a guide. The rope which held them together was strong, but afforded no direction as to the right way, as it would have done with a guide going first.

A strong will may be a great help; but if the will is not surrendered to God's will, one can easily lose one's way in life. With Jesus as the guide, the will surrendered to His will becomes a safeguard to us. We are safe in His keeping; for He will guide us with His eye.



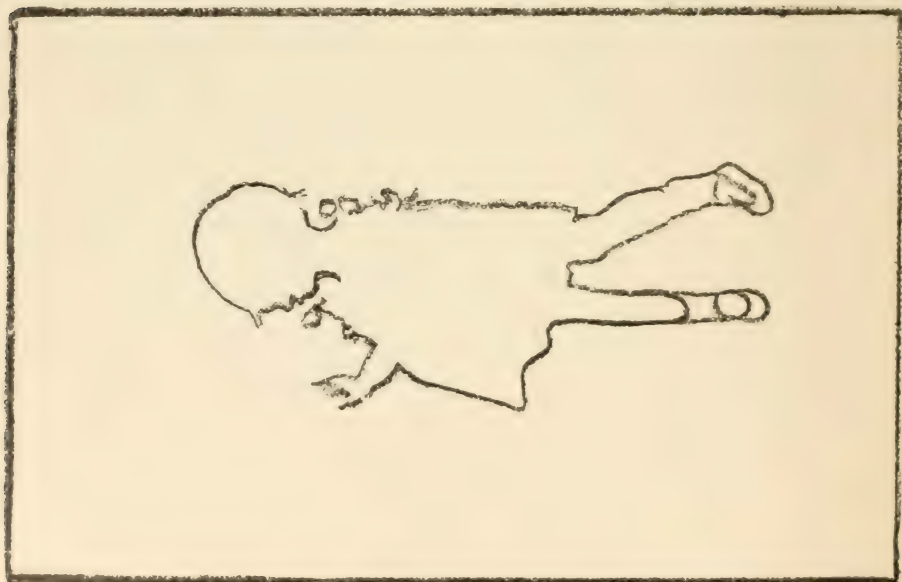
THE LITTLE WINDOW

Scripture: JOHN 10 : 1. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheep-fold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

A band of robbers came to a castle and tried to break in; but the walls were strong, the big doors were tight, and they could not make an entrance. Presently one of them found a tiny little window unbarred; but it was so small that he could not climb through it.

The robbers at first did not know what to do. Soon, however, they thought of a plan. They saw a little boy and called to him. They then put him through the little window, in order that he might unlock the big window, so that all the robbers could enter the castle. He did so, and the castle was robbed.

When one does a thing that seems a little wrong, only a very little wrong indeed, it is just like putting the little thief inside the castle. The little wrong opens the way for larger things that are not right. The only safe way is to keep the little windows closed to wrong doing.



DEEDS OF LIFE

Scripture: GALATIANS 6 : 7. *For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

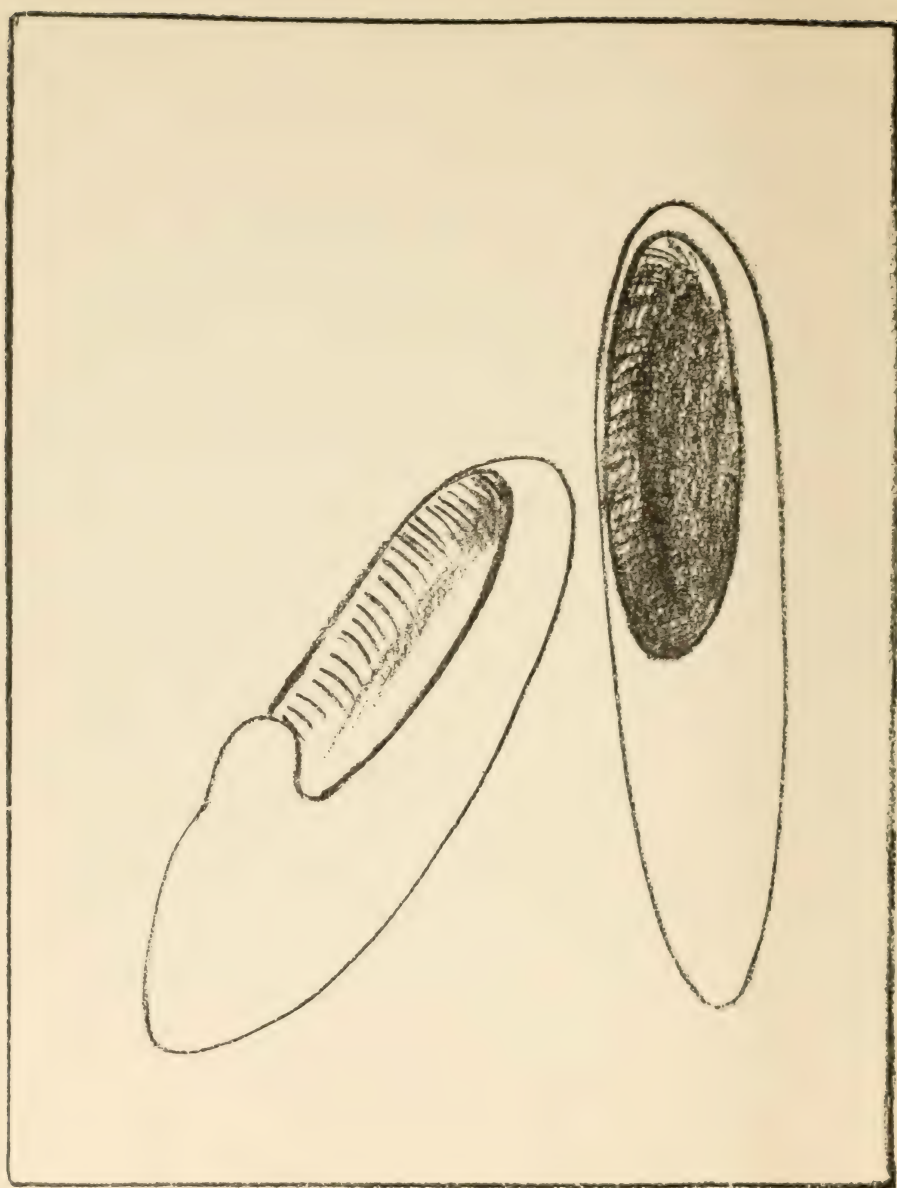
A little girl was visiting her grandmother on the adjoining farm. When she was about ready to go home, her grandmother, who was planting poppies, gave some seeds to the little girl, putting them in a paper bag for her so that she could carry them.

The little girl took the paper bag and started for home across the green pasture. As she was skipping along, she saw a beautiful butterfly. It was so close that she tried to catch it, but it kept just a little way from her.

After following it for quite a while, she gave up the chase, and followed the narrow path to the gate of her home. She gave the paper bag to her mother, rather surprised to see that it contained very few seeds. The mother thought nothing of that, however.

When the time came for poppies to bloom, there were poppies growing and blooming through the pasture wherever the little girl had gone. There were the vivid red flowers, telling the story of how the little girl had chased the butterfly.

After the actions of our lives register, they are often temporarily forgotten; but in the future, sometime, somewhere, there will bloom the seed of good or bad which we have sown. The path which we made will be made known; everyone will see whether it is crooked or straight. Let us make the straight path.



DEPENDENCE

Scripture: PSALM 100:3. *Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that hath made us and not we ourselves.*

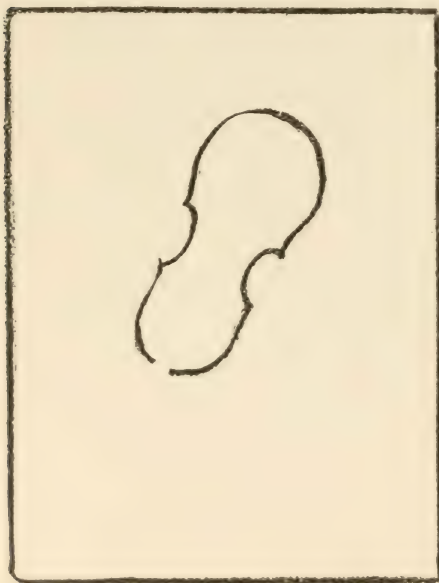
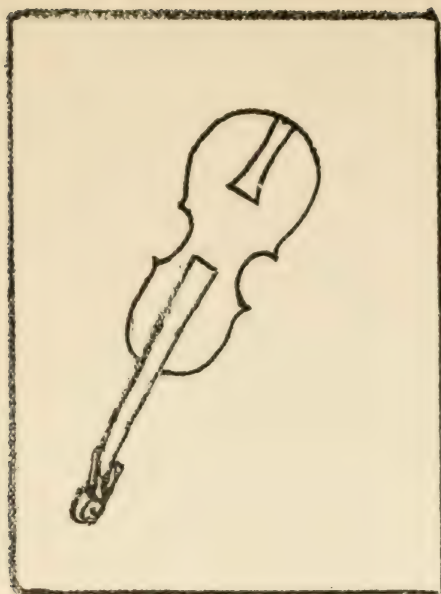
A little girl told what she was going to give her father for a birthday present. "I am going to give my father a nice pair of slippers," she said.

"And where are you going to get the money for a pair of fine slippers?" she was asked.

"Oh, my father gave me the money, and I went with mamma and bought the present."

The little girl was pleased that she was giving her father a fine gift, but never realized that her father was paying for his own present. The father loved the little daughter for her gift, although she did not have a thing in the world that he had not given her.

Our Heavenly Father has given us all that we have. We can give back to Him only that which belongs to Him. But we should do this, for He is delighted with our gifts. We can give him our money, our talents, our time, and ourselves.



THE VIOLIN

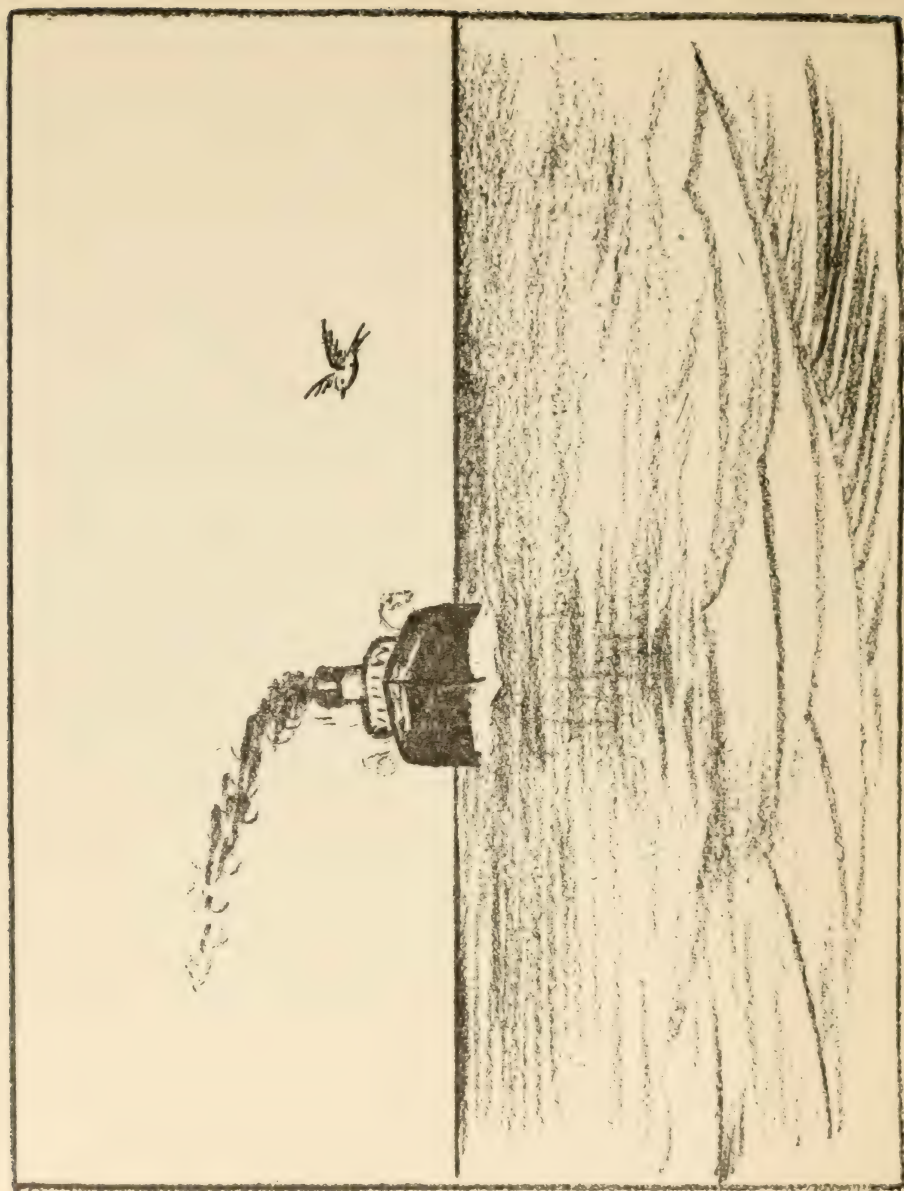
Scripture: PSALM 98:5. *Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.*

The making of a violin requires great skill and care. While talking to a violinist, who also manufactures violins, I learned that the wood used in the manufacture of violins is selected very carefully. Expert men go to the woods, select a tree, and take the wood from a certain part of the tree. This wood must then be seasoned, and later worked into a violin.

The story is told of a great violinist who attended an auction sale. The auctioneer was trying to sell an old violin, dirty, with dust on it, and with only one string. The violinist took it up, tenderly dusted it with his silk handkerchief, adjusted the one string and the bow, and began to play.

When the people heard the music, they began to bid for the instrument, and it sold for a large sum. The player was the maker of the violin.

No matter how far away from Jesus one gets, no matter how life has mistreated one, when He takes hold of us and puts us in tune with God, Jesus can bring music out of our lives. In His great tenderness He can patch up the broken cords of love and faith and hope, and make them play the harmony of a Christian life.



THE SKYLARK AT SEA

Scripture: PSALM 55:6. *Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then
would I fly away, and be at rest.*

Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon, the great preacher, told of a skylark which followed a ship far out into the sea. After following the ship a considerable distance, the bird was compelled through sheer weariness to alight on the deck, where, being worn out, it was easily caught by a passenger. The warmth of the man's hand was so agreeable that the bird settled down, showing no signs of fear, and became a great pet for the rest of the voyage.

The story of the warm reception which the weary bird received at the hands of the passengers conveys a splendid lesson. The soul away from God, blown out of its course by the wind of temptation, is like the bird, lost and weary, without hope. But when one commits himself to the hands of Jesus, the welcome, satisfaction, and contentment that come are beyond description. The worn-out, sin-sick soul, received in the hand of God, finds that none of the storms of life have any longer power to destroy it.



MAKING GOOD

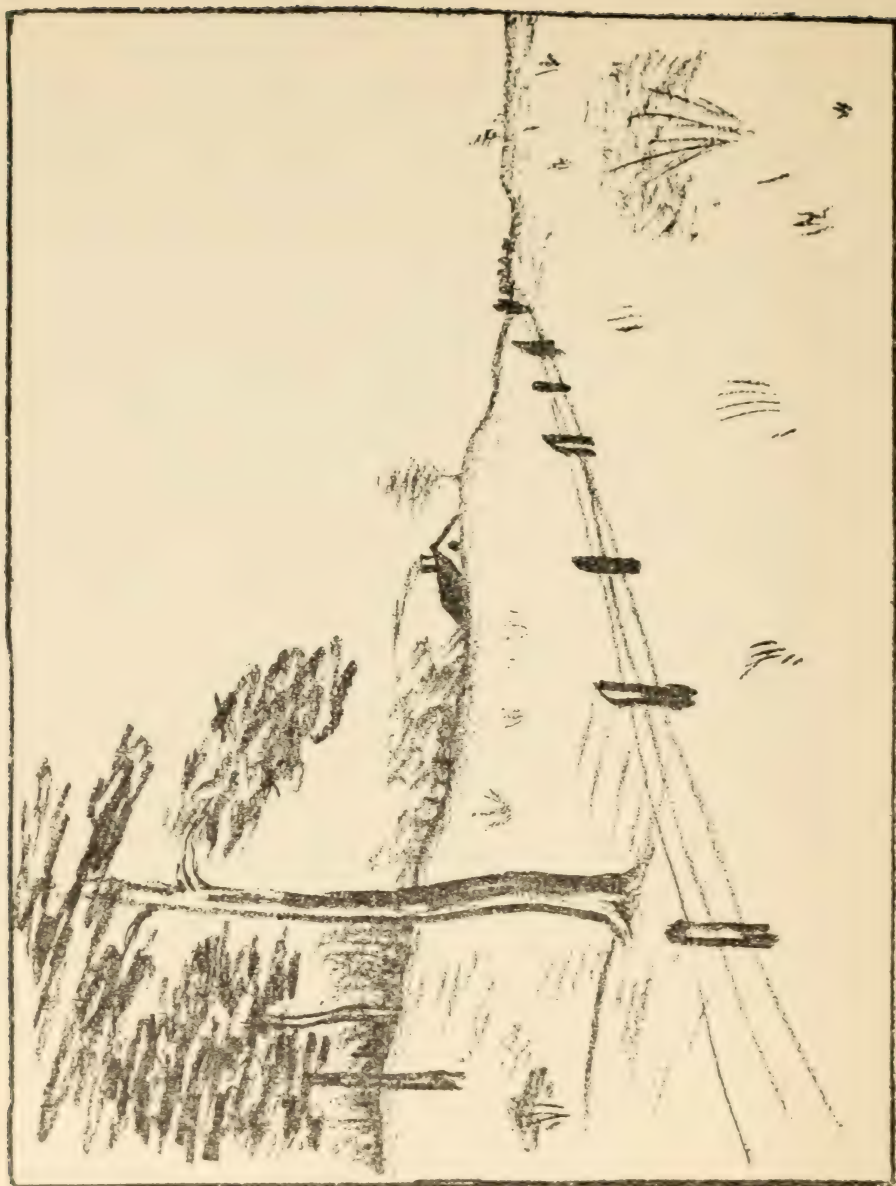
Scripture: TIMOTHY 2 : 15. *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

A rich man bought at a bargain an old homestead located on the Atlantic coast. The farm was too rocky to produce and the shore too swampy and weedy for a landing. After the papers were filled out, and the exchange of title was made, he moved onto the old place to see what could be made out of it.

A stream of water, with its swift flowing current, he decided to use for power in manufacturing electricity. The rocks became a stone quarry from which many tons of fine building stone were taken. Large trees were taken off for lumber, and from the seaweed the owner manufactured iodine. On the hill sides, he put herds of sheep. On one part of the farm he built chicken houses and started a poultry farm. All this was done on the farm which had never been worth the taxes paid on it, and which those who lived on it before had felt to have very little value. This man utilized every available opportunity to develop the place; and he succeeded.

Some people have rare possibilities that need to be developed and put to work. If this is done, they will become productive, having found the thing they can do best.

The church is in need of someone who will utilize the things that are at hand and bring light out of darkness, power out of lethargy, love out of hate, peace out of war, joy out of sadness.

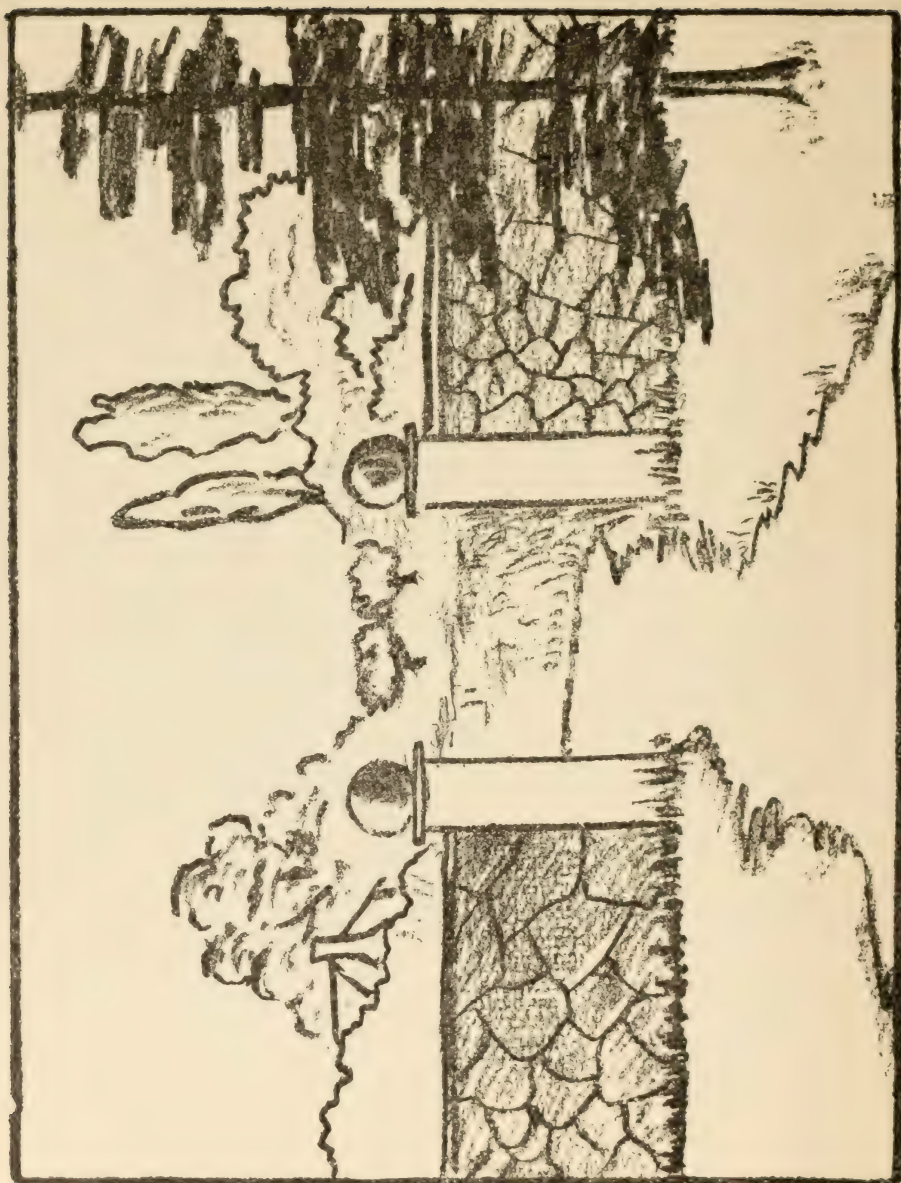


SOWING AND REAPING

Scripture: GALATIANS 6:7. *Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

An Alabama man who wanted to sell his four-hundred acre farm for \$2,000 could not find a purchaser. He was advised by experts to plant the larger part of the farm in cowpea hay. He did this and sold \$8,400 worth of hay from one crop, making a net profit of twice the sum which he had asked for the whole place.

Many a discouraged Christian worker, who is wishing for another job, or a tired teacher who would like a different Sunday-school class, if he will change the kind of seed he is sowing, will be able, in a very short time, on the same field and surroundings, to double his output for good. The kind of crop gathered depends upon the kind of seed sown. Seed is not lost. The summer reveals it, and the harvest returns it in large measure.



THE UNGRATEFUL BEGGAR

Scripture: PROVERBS 22 : 1. *A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.*

You have heard, perhaps, of the Arab beggar who sat at the gate of a rich man's home. On this man's bounty and from his hand, the beggar received constant gifts. The story tells us how kind the rich man was to the beggar. But one day the rich man wanted to send a message in haste. As his servants were all busy, he wrote the message, and, taking it to the beggar, asked him to deliver it for him.

The beggar proudly lifted himself. "I solicit alms," he said, "but I do not run errands." So ungrateful was he for all that the rich man had done for him.

How many people are like this! How many treat their Heavenly Father so! If it were not for the Father, we should not have the blessings that are scattered around us day by day, for they come from our Heavenly Father's hands. Then, when He wants us to go on an errand, or carry a message of Jesus' love to men, we say, "No, Lord! I solicit your blessings, but I do not run errands." Surely the least we can do for Jesus is to carry His message to others.









